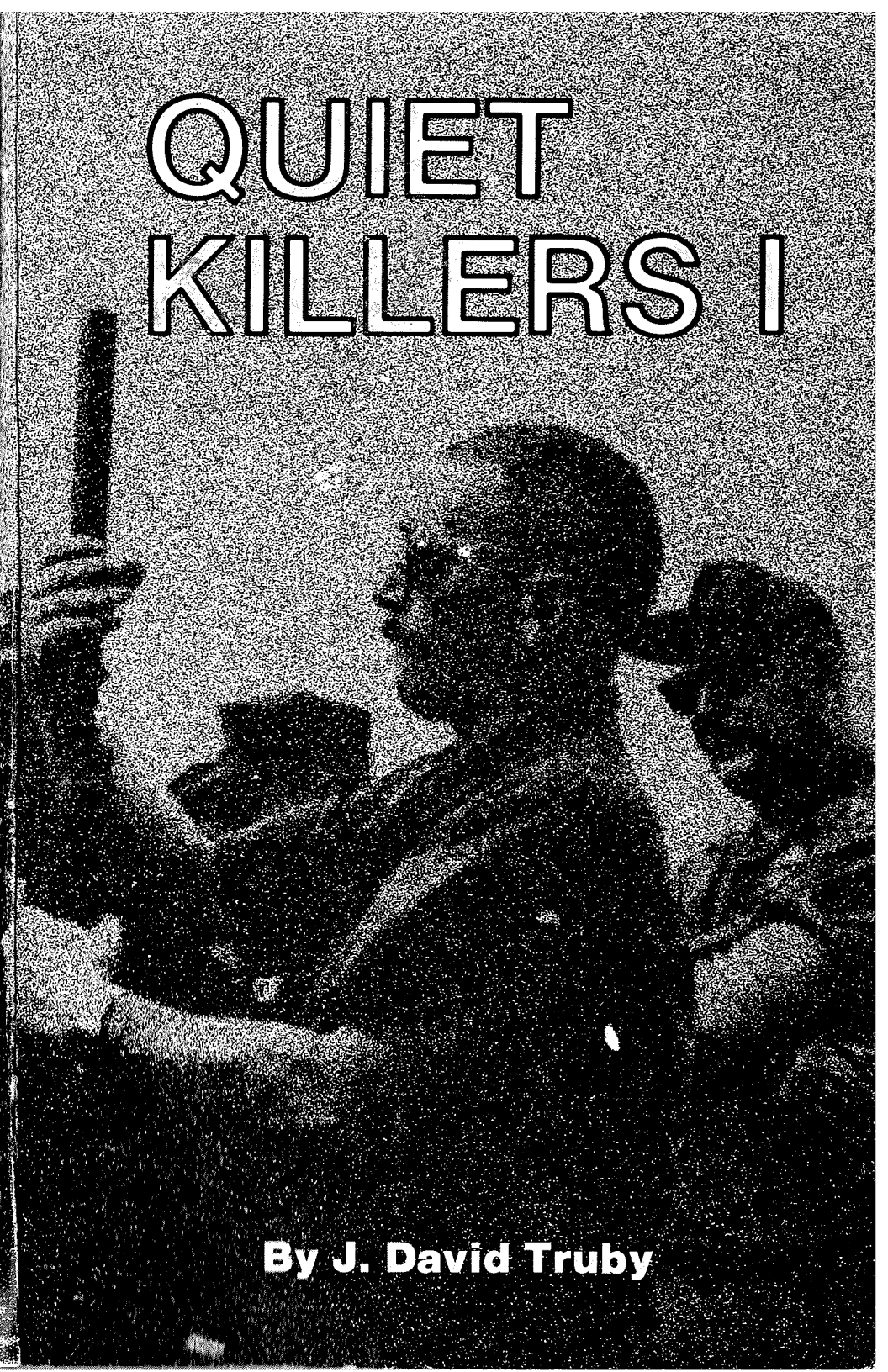
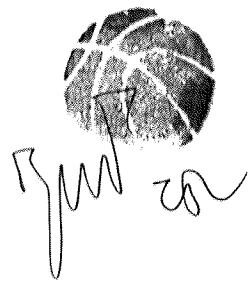
QUIET KILLERS I



By J. David Truby



PALADIN PRESS

The Quiet Killers

by J. David Truby

Copyright © 1972 by Paladin Press.
All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced without the express written permission of the publisher.

1979 Edition.
Published by Paladin Press, a division of Paladin Enterprises, Inc., Post Office Box 1307, Boulder, Colorado 80306.

Printed in the United States of America.
ISBN 0-87364-014-4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION (You aren't allowed to write a book like this!) . . . . . .

CHAPTER	TITLE	PAGE
1	**THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE/THE WHAT AND WHY OF SILENCERS** (All the questions you wanted to ask about silencers, but were afraid to for fear of jail or worse)	9
2	**SILENCERS BACK IN THOSE INNOCENT OLD DAYS** (Hiram P. Maxim was a genius ahead of his time)	15
3	**SILENCERS GO TO WAR . . . AGAIN AND AGAIN** (The advantages of noiseless death are darkly obvious in modern warfare)	21
4	**SILENCER TEST LAB — VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA, ETC.** (The case of an elephant trying to stomp a mouse)	29
5	**SILENCERS IN OUR DOMESTIC WAR** (Yes, Virginia, the Mob, the radicals, and the police have all discovered the advantages of noiseless death in modern domestic warfare)	60
6	**SILENTLY YOURS** (Some unsure words about an unsure future)	71

List of Illustrations

Page 30. Hiram H. Maxim and Hiram P. Maxim prepare to test a Springfield .03 with Maxim silencer.
Hiram P. Maxim holds a Winchester .30-.30 Rifle equipped with his first silencer.
Page 31. Hiram H. Maxim at age 8 with .03 Springfield and silencer.
Page 32. Pennsylvania National Guard with weapons equipped with Maxim silencer.
Page 33. Author with Hiram H. Maxim.
Page 34. Hiram H. Maxim fires silencer-equipped .22 Rifle.
Hiram H. Maxim today with .03 Springfield.
Page 35. Silenced Welrod.
Silenced .22 Colt Woodsman.
Silenced Librod
Page 36. WWII survival kit for SOE agents.
Ordnance official with Welrod clip.
Page 37. Librod Pistol being fired.
Page 38. Silenced Luger.
Silenced Luger PO8.
Silenced Czech Model 27.
Page 39. British soldier with silenced Enfield MKIV.
Experimental silenced Czech Pistol.
Page 40. FP-45 Pistol.
Silenced Belgian FN Rifle.
Silenced FN C1A1 Rifle.
Page 41. Silenced Ingram M10.
Silenced M16A1.
Page 42. Donald G. Thomas firing silenced M10.
Silenced Chinese rifle.
Page 43. Silencer device for revolver.
Siegfried Hubner with Silenced Walther MPK.
Silenced Webley MK 3.
Page 44. Hitchell L. WerBell, III with silenced Ingram M10.
Page 45. Insert cut line from photo No. 30.
Silenced Heckler & Koch Assault Rifle.
Author fires silenced M3A1.
Page 46. Carlos Cordoba Jose Fugueres, president of Costa Rica, with silenced M3A1.
Author fires a silenced Browning pistol.
Page 47. Spud silencer used by IRA terrorists.
9mm Beretta with silencer.
Silenced Remington Model 700.

Page 48. Silenced High-Standard Pistol.
A "Churchill Gauntlet".
Page 49. Silenced Ruger .22 Pistol.
Cut-away diagram of a typical silencer.
High-Standard Pistol with illegally-fabricated silencer.
Page 50. IMP survival weapon — silenced prototype.

INTRODUCTION

The Army officer lowered an eyebrow and looked at me with that Joe McCarthy smirk, then added, "You aren't allowed to write a book like this!"

I was talking to a man from one of the leading centers for small arms research and development. I had asked for access to historical material as part of my research into the interesting area of silencer development. That was in 1969.

Today, of course, my book SILENCERS, SNIPERS AND ASSASSINS is a matter of publication fact. This topic had existed much like an iceberg when I started chipping away in 1969, i.e., most of the bulk is under the surface.

My first book on silencers was released at the height of the Dita Beard-GOP-ITT fuss, with all its human intrigue. Noting this, one of my newspaper friends told me he had seen my name on the reservation list for a Denver heart hospital. Seriously I hasten to add that most of the official reaction to my book was that "Emperor's New Clothes" reaction so common to Washington officialdom. Yet, I have lots of letters from the "little people" of that officialdom — people to whom I am indebted for their help in putting together this second book.

In addition, some special people provided invaluable information, pictures and help. This group of friends includes Peter Ecyk (one of Europe's finest "retired" journalists); Siegfried Hubner (an unselfish silencer designer whose expertise and files were opened to me); Hiram Hamilton Maxim (this wonderful man is the son of Hiram P. Maxim — the man who started it all with the first practical silencer in 1908. Mr. H. H. Maxim shared his family's memories and pictures with me, and he and his sister had me as their house guest during an enjoyable visit); John Minnery (a friend who has generously given me more material than he will allow me to mention. However, this man should get credit where due, so I hope he will forgive my breach of security when I say thanks to John Minnery, a man with first hand expertise in clandestine operations). Then, there is Don Thomas (one of the world's last true gentlemen, Don, a great friend, is a never-ending source of amazing discovery and data about silenders and related ordnance. I'm convinced, as I wrote before, that Don ought to be head of the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution). Thanks also to Colonel Frank B. Conway for his aid in obtaining many unique silencer photos.

I'd like to thank a couple of other friends who deserve special "Thanks" for being wonderful helpers, editors, and sources for material. I refer to Bob Brown and Peder Lund (Thanks so much for being as you are and for your understanding.)

Editorial kudos go to Renee Ayers of Paladin Press for keeping all the communication straight. And, thanks to Mary F. Connors, not only for being an excellent editorial assistant, but also for being one of the prettiest.

Then, there is a handful of other friends who have given me privileged information and photos, and who have documented case histories. These have accepted my thanks quietly and non-publically, and this is the way we've decided to leave it.

Incidentally, I will always be glad to hear from anyone with a story to tell or a picture to share on the topic of silencers for small arms. Send all correspondence to J. David Truby, 2587 Melloney Lane, Indiana, Pennsylvania 15701.

CHAPTER 1
THE SOUNDS OF SILENCE-THE WHAT AND WHY OF SILENCERS

The agent hurried down the dark Moscow street. His deep mission had been aborted because a Soviet officer had gotten under his cover and knew his assignment. He later told me that although it was a chilly September night, he remembers sweating feverishly. He had reason to sweat, as he was carrying a small, silenced pistol, a weapon intended for only one thing, quiet death for someone — maybe him if the Russians caught him with it.

"I had to be clean if the secret police or the GRU located me. When it's 3 a.m. in Moscow you can feel pretty alone and afraid," he told me quite honestly.

His heart lifted when he saw the wall of the U.S. Embassy at the next corner. Hurrying along, he walked among the shadows of the shrub-lined iron bars and looked carefully around — he was alone. He slipped the tiny, single shot pistol from its special hide-away pocket and tossed it over the wall — onto the U.S. soil of our embassy in Moscow. It landed with a pleasing "thud." Lightened by that few ounces, my agent-friend felt like a heavy load had been taken from his back as he strolled away to catch a cab to the Metropol.

At that time, it was a matter of life or death. Today, he sees the twisted humor of the whole thing.

"Can you imagine the consternation of your officials," he chuckles now, "when they found that damn pistol the next day? I mean, that thing was a killer's weapon. I wonder how they handled it all and how much paper work and red tape it took to explain the whole thing to Washington?

My guess was that someone probably buried it or else took it down the street and tossed it into the British embassy, who pitched it to the French, who then threw it to the Chinese, etc.

Actually, silent killing is a deadly business, and silenced weapons are the tool of the trade. As a former Special Forces officer told me, "Sure we use silenced weapons. Sentries can be killed by knife, garrote, or karate. But, it makes more sense to shoot the man in the head from a distance — quietly."

Despite their clandestine military use, silencers are generally illegal to own or use in most parts of the world. Not only are silencers themselves illegal, but some officials seem to think it is also against the law to discuss them with a writer. Smiling PR men turned quiet as I asked representatives of manufacturers, government, and military about silencers. Silencers are one of those ironies in that most everyone in the weapons' business knows about them, but few will talk about them. Silencer use is one of the areas of espionage that the public either really won't believe, or chooses not to believe.

In espionage practice, covert killing is not all that common, i.e., the top powers don't go around knocking off each other's super spies. Such actions would be too costly, in terms of money and trained manpower going to waste in a rash of vendetta killings. Most recognized field operatives from the major powers are not bothered by the counter-espionage forces of other nations, unless the spy in question makes an expensive or newsworthy nuisance of himself. Or, as a retired CIA operative told me, "We knew most of our opposite numbers, as they must have known us. Unless we had to, we didn't bother

each other much. Training a good spy costs time and money. So, I think you could call this unwritten agreement a matter of informal professional courtesy. If someone had to get greased, it was always a little guy, usually a local.'' (Foreign national)

Realistically, in espionage there has to be quick, quiet and sudden death at times because of the way the world is divided. Yet, naturally, the idea behind ambush, assassination, and quiet, sneaky death is not the American way. For example, when American Congressmen learned the deadly details of our Phoenix Program in Vietnam, some of our outraged leaders screamed about our ''immoral and unAmerican'' way of being ''sneaky assassins and back-shooters.'' Granted, it isn't John Wayne — but it's how the dirty war is fought. And, if they think this type of mission is bad, wait until they learn the details of another little adventure.

We've been sending 12-man teams of CIA-trained, Cambodian spy-troops to infiltrate deep into Communist territory since the Summer of 1971. According to my source in Phnom Penh, about 20 of these teams have been used on secret missions involving espionage, interdiction, and what was called ''non-direct assault,'' which could mean anything from assassination to ambush. There are *no* closed borders as far as the CIA and their people are concerned. And, that includes Red China!

Dressed in North Vietnamese uniforms, peasant clothing, or whatever costume is needed to carry out their mission, these teams have been rumored to be mobile terror and spy units. A very confidential source, who saw their training camp, told me that some of the people have been inside Red China on intelligence missions and that some of them are now being trained in the use of silenced weapons and are being given classes in Chinese politics and language.

''They have top ordnance stuff over there,'' he added. ''The newest sniper rifles, new silencers, plus some small-calibre, silenced submachine guns I had not seen before.''

Arms training for these spy-killer units is conducted by CIA and Special Forces personnel in civilian clothing, working in highly classified, well-guarded jungle bases.

There are other stories, too, and it is now apparent that despite official denials and attempts to suppress facts, our side is still using silencer-equipped weapons in classified covert missions all over Indochina.

The reason so many of these silenced missions are hushed is not so much for reasons of national security, but more for face-saving reasons. Indeed, the intelligence services of most other countries know far, far more about America's dirty war efforts than do 95 per cent of U.S. citizens. American public opinion seems to have the idea that killing a man with a loud rifle or a B-52 bomber is somehow more ethical or moral than doing it with a quiet, silent gun from ambush. In a nutshell, it's a matter of letting our public believe that ''they'' (the enemy) kill quietly, sinisterly and as a bunch of back-shooters, while ''we'' always kill honorably.

But, that's just the military side of silencer use. Others have discovered

the advantages of silenced death, including organized crime, political radicals from both Left and Right, as well as the men on the other side of the domestic battleground — law enforcement personnel.

In fact, law enforcement was the rationale behind the National Firearms Act of 1934 (amended in 1968) which, among other things, makes illegal silencer ownership a serious crime. That Act imposes a tax and registration on the making or transfer of certain types of firearms and destructive devices, administered by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division (ATFD) of the Treasury Department. This law is the major limiting factor on private ownership and use of silencers.

Basically, this law requires payment of a $200 tax for the transfer or manufacture of a silencer, and any such transaction must have the approval of the Director of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division. In addition, each device must be registered with the ATFD.

The penalty for conviction of any violation of, or failure to comply with, any provision of the Act is a fine of not more than $10,000 or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both. Naturally, any silencer involved in such violation would be subject to seizure and forfeiture.

Under the current law, the following prohibitions pertain to silencers: one may not

> 1. receive or possess a silencer which is not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record; or
> 2. receive or possess a silencer which is not identified by a serial number as required by the Act; or
> 3. receive or possess a silencer which has been imported or brought into the United States in violation of section 5844.

According to most legal sources, ANYTHING you put on the end of a gun that ''tends to reduce noise'' is a silencer and is probably illegal unless you are licensed.

''If you put a toothpaste tube on the end of your .22 and it cuts down on the blast sound even 1 or 2 decibels, that's a silencer,'' is the way one authority put it.

Please note that the past few paragraphs are certainly not a complete or legal reportage of the famifications of the National Firearms Act. These are selected highlights only, and any reader with a legal or technical question is strongly urged to seek a knowledgeable attorney or to contact ATFD people.

So, silencers legally exist. If that sounds strange, consider that until recently, the usual reaction when a person was asked about silencers was a silly shrug and a mention of television gangsters and cinema spies. The truth is that a surprising number of people are up to their legal, illegal, and semi-legal trigger fingers in the deadly business of quiet death. The rest of this book is the story of those people and their tools.

Silencers are not new; gunsmiths and inventors have been fooling with them since the 19th century. However, the current advantages of a silencer, which is a device to eliminate muzzle noise and flash, fall into overlapping groups. The first grouping is tactical deception. As the source of fire is masked, the exact location of the firer, the range from which the weapon is firing, the types of weapons firing, and the number of weapons firing cannot be determined. The second advantage is psychological and physical. Physically, the lessening of muzzle flash and noise, and to some extent the recoil, greatly improves accuracy. Psychologically, the masking of the source of the firing gives the shooter a feeling of security, as he will not receive immediate return fire. It can be broadly stated that a silenced weapon confuses the person being fired upon; improves the shooter's accuracy by eliminating disconcerting flash and noise; and as a bonus, gives the shooter a feeling of confidence that he will not be discovered.

The silencer is usually used in clandestine operations, e.g., sniping, assassination, or hit-and-run operations where stealth and silence are major factors. In addition, there are numerous battlefield and non-battlefield applications if consideration is given to the many operations where deception is of tactical, operational or psychological advantage, e.g., the ability to harass and confuse the enemy gives friendly forces a tactical and psychological advantage which may insure the success of many missions. Obviously, these same advantages apply to the use of silenced weapons by criminals, political radicals, or by law enforcement personnel.

Technically, a silencer is a device for reducing or disguising the noise created by the discharge of a firearm. That noise is actually two sounds. The first noise heard by a person down range is the ballistic crack of the bullet zipping through the air and exeeding the speed of sound. It's the same type of noise as a jet breaking the sound barrier. The second sound is the muzzle blast — the sound of the high pressure gases breaking out of the barrel just behind the bullet and entering the atmosphere. A silencer delays the escape of these gases, reducing the sharp, loud report that occurs when they all pop out at once.

Thus, a silencer works on about the same principle as the muffler of your car. Both have an expansion chamber for the gas to lose energy as well as a series of baffles to hinder the flow of the gases. Most silencers are made of steel, titanium or aluminum alloy, while the gas absorbing section is a series of steel discs or baffles. This entire system is closed within a tube, with the only openings being the barrel and exit holes cut slightly larger than the exact calibre of the weapon. The clearance inside the silencer is reduced as much as possible, leaving just enough space for the bullet to miss the baffles, in order to prevent the rapid escape of the gases. Obviously, the whole assembly must be fitted on the gun properly, or the whole lashup could blow up in the shooter's face.

The levels of silencer efficiency depend on several factors. If the muzzle velocity of the bullet is subsonic and the breech of the firearm is tightly closed, the noise is almost completely eliminated by using a silencer. However, a high velocity projectile will make a crackling noise as it creates its own sonic boom

after leaving the muzzle of the gun.

While the muzzle noise comes from a fixed point, i.e., the gun muzzle, the ballistic noise moves backward in a conical shape somewhat like the bow wave created by a boat. The sound waves begin slightly ahead of the moving projectile. The sonic crack of the bullet travels away from the muzzle toward the target, moving at the velocity of the bullet. Thus, attention to the firing source is almost a natural reaction, as the wave carries the observer's attention back to the firing point. This, of course, is all in theory, as various field conditions, e.g., other combat firing, terrain, psychology, etc., are obviously factors to consider. However, in the covert operations found in today's guerrilla warfare, some of these other considerations are not nearly so critical as the need to muffle the sonic crack of the bullet.

When the muzzle "thump" is dampened, leaving only the isolated ballistic crack, locating the firing source is usually impossible, particularly under field conditions. It might be concluded that for sniping under normal field conditions, a silencer may be used to dampen muzzle blast, without too much worry about silencing the ballistic crack. Covert operations and clandestine assassinations, however, are a different matter. Usually, these are carried out in situations where as much total silence as possible is desired. Thus, weapons for this type of activity attempt to deal with both sources of sound.

For example, a sniper or countersniper firing in the field is not especially concerned if the enemy hears the snap of a bullet. They cannot locate him from that sound alone. However, an espionage agent who has to quietly kill an enemy would just as soon have NO noise.

The only way to avoid the supersonic crack of the bullet is to lower the slug's speed to subsonic, or about 1050 feet per second. Of course, atmospheric conditions would affect that figure — as subsonic speed in the humid jungles of Southeast Asia is higher than it would be in the arctic. However, as almost all standard military small arms ammunition is supersonic, other means have been found to dissipate the sonic boom of the round. In some silencers, this is accomplished by reducing the efficiency of the gases created by the explosion of gunpowder, often by "bleeding" the gas through porting holes drilled in the barrel of the silenced gun. The result is a subsonic round coming out of the gun.

In the event the silencer design does not include a way of bleeding off gas by porting the barrel into a gas chamber, then heavier, slower cartridges must be used if the sonic boom of the projectile is to be eliminated. Two excellent examples of slow, heavy cartridges are our .45 ACP and the British .455 calibre, operating at about 720 to 950 feet per second, while maintaining a projectile weight of about 230 grains.

Now, while we're waxing technical here, let's toss out the popular television and film foolery about the silencer as a handy dandy little gadget to clip on the end of the gun. Silencers are big, long, and heavy. The better models, the ones the pros use, are built specifically for specially designed guns. Obviously, the larger the calibre of weapon, the longer and bulkier the silencer must be. A .38 calibre auto, for example, would require a silencer at least 9 inches long and 1½ inches in diameter. A friend who used to be in the semi-

military service of this country once showed me the silencer he had been issued for a particular task. It was made to fit a .32 foreign auto and was 8 inches long and about 2 inches fat.

In terms of optimum efficiency, even semiautomatic or fully automatic weapons are not totally silent. In addition to the muffled report, the mechanical noise produced by the moving parts can create quite a racket. The ideal weapon for a silencer is a manually operated, locked-breech, single shot or repeater. It can be either rifle or handgun. However, a silencer fitted to a revolver is almost useless. The gases easily and noisily escape from the open areas between the cylinder and barrel. Yet, especially among domestic criminals, revolvers remain favorites for silencers. Of course, if the fit between cylinder and frame is tight, the silencer will work to some extent. An interesting invention that permits the use of a revolver with a silencer was designed by Siegfried Hubner. However, while this device is probably too bulky for normal field use, it would be ideal in clandestine missions or in some law enforcement activities.

In summary, some of the requirements of the ideal firearms silencer were listed in the March-April 1969 issue of Ordnance magazine, as follows:

1. It should be capable of accurate fire under all conditions of use.
2. It should be as light as possible — yet heavy enough to assist in stability.
3. Its reliability under even the worst field conditions should be unquestioned.
4. Its maintenance should be simple and economical.
5. It should use ammunition of standard manufacture.

Finally, there is the matter of terminology. In current usage, silencers are called ''sound moderators'' or ''sound suppressors.'' The idea being that most of these devices do not really silence gunfire. This is especially true of the device which simply muffles muzzle blast, while ignoring the ballistic crack of a supersonic bullet. Literally, by definition, that type device is a moderator or suppressor — not a silencer. Frankly, there are very few totally silent weapons. There is mechnical noise. And, bullet hiss. Then, of course, there is the rather solid smack of a bullet hitting a person. So, total silence is almost a myth. But, to simplify and to bow to popular acceptance and terminology for the purpose of this book, I will refer to all of these devices as silencers, whether they are technically moderators, suppressors or whatever. So, while the technical buffs will wince at my journalistic license, the rest of you can read on.

That is the technical side of the subject. The rest of the story deals with people and with history. Needless to say, this is not a popular or well known history.

CHAPTER 2
SILENCERS BACK IN THOSE INNOCENT OLD DAYS

Contrary to what you may believe, the silencer was not invented by Al Capone, Flash Gordon or Joe Mannix. Indeed, many people worked on silencers even before the 20th century poked its head around the corner over 70 years ago. The man who designed history's first successful silencer was Hiram P. Maxim, an inventive genius, and a man who was mightily ahead of his time in the area of noise pollution of all types.

Son of the famous machine gun inventor Sir Hiram S. Maxim, Hiram P. Maxim patented the first truly useful silencer in March of 1908. However, his first effort was a crude affair which really never got anywhere past its first testings. His son described that first silencer to me.

''He had this little device that looked like a conch shell stuck on the end of a Winchester .30-30,'' Hiram Hamilton Maxim told me. ''It worked, but not very well. Father knew he could do better, so he went back to work.''

I asked Hamilton Maxim what became of that first silencer. His terse reply: ''Father threw it in the junk box...he was a perfectionist!''

H. P. Maxim originally believed that the gases had to be whirled to reduce the noise level, and that first model was designed to swirl the gases around in the chamber of the silencer. He then realized that he needed only to delay the release of the gases to reduce the report, and brought out an improved model. The Maxim Model 1909 became the first efficient silencer to be marketed.

Continuing his work, H. P. Maxim brought out the 1910 Model, which became the most sidely distributed silencer in the country. The major advantage of the 1910 model was that its off-center design allowed it to be used with a weapon's original sights.

Maxim had designed his silencers mainly as a device to stop noise pollution. From my research, I gathered that one of this inventive man's driving forces was a dislike for noise. In fact, in one of his writings, he predicted that our environment would someday be so industrially loud as to be injurious to the health. Sound familiar? He wrote this in 1915.

A prolific writer as well as inventor, Maxim described his successful gun silencer as being for the man who wants to shoot targets in the backyard without upsetting the neighbors. Others used Maxim-silenced guns to knock off troublesome garden pests and unwanted alley rats.

Of course, not everyone fell instantly in love with the Maxim invention. Crusader W. T. Hornaday, one of the alarmists of his day, called the Maxim invention a ''break for every assassin.'' He also held that strike breakers would be able to pop off strikers more easily. In fact, there may have been an element of truth in that, as a few Maxim silencers were used to quietly settle labor-management problems during a steel strike in 1909. Meanwhile, in New Jersey, two young men used silenced rifles to kill 6 horses on a farm, then demand an $800 ransom for their promise not to silently kill others. Police caught them and their Maxim silencers. Police in many cities banned silencer use.

But, these are very minor exceptions. For the most part, the users of the Maxim silencers were law abiding sportsmen and target shooters. Indeed, in February of 1909, Hiram P. Maxim presented one of his .30 calibre silencers to President Theodore Roosevelt for use on one of his rifles during the 1909 hunting expedition to Africa. I was not able to learn if the President ever used the silenced rifle.

The newspapers and magazines of the era were full of stories and articles about the Maxim invention. While at the Connecticut State Library in Hartford, I poured over three huge scrapbooks filled with Maxim Collection clippings. In general, most of the articles were favorable toward the "noiseless gun" as they called it.

However, what impressed me through all this research was how H. P. Maxim treated the invention as just another tool in his search for a better, quieter, less hectic life. He was truly a man way ahead of time, with his interest in gliders, bicycles, non-polluting steam and electric cars, radio, motion pictures, and a myriad of other interesting things.

Despite all the fanfare, and it is an understatement to say that H. P. Maxim was also a genius at generating publicity, there was a limited civilian market for silencers. So, his 1912 model was designed with a military market in mind, and several styles of that model were tested by the U.S. Army with the M1903 Springfield. The report of the weapon was silenced, but the "sonic boom" of the bullet was not. General Julian S. Hatcher, who tested the Maxim with the Springfield rifle said that the passing of the bullet sounded like someone tearing a sheet.

"Bullets fired from those Springfields would 'crack' as they passed close to a solid thing like a tree," General Hatcher noted. "I fired one of the silenced guns down an old, straight road on a military post, and the bullet cracked each time it passed a telephone pole. The whole thing sounded like a burst of rapid machine gun fire."

When I told Hamilton Maxim this story, he laughed and told me his father and he had discovered the same thing three years before. They had a "firing range" which was a stretch of straight road heading away from their Hartford plant.

"I used to fire our silenced Springfield down that road and listen to the 'crack-crack-crack' of the bullet as it passed the line of telephone poles." he added.

Although the 1912 model was not sold to the government in great quantities, they were used for special purposes. General John Pershing's Mexico expedition included 15 sharp-shooters who had been issued silencer-fitted Springfields. These weapons were to be used for quiet, long-range killing of sentries so surprise attacks could be mounted against Pancho Villa's forces. The sad record of our army's lack of success in Mexico probably tells the story of how effective this idea was too. It also points to a major problem.

From Gatling through Maxim through Lewis through Thompson, Johnson, Stoner, et. al., the U.S. Army has been amazingly closed-minded about its weapons systems. So, unable to sell to the home government, American

inventors go elsewhere. The full list reads like a WHO'S WHO OF ORDNANCE. Hiram P. Maxim was no exception. His sales agent, Joseph Keegan, easily sold Maxim silencers all over the world, with shipments made to China, Japan, Mexico, England, France, Belgium, Germany, and all over South America.

The most obvious sales point was the lack of sound. Maxim's favorite demonstration involved mounting a company business card in a special holder set several inches from the muzzle of an unsilenced gun. When the gun was fired, the muzzle blast blew the card to shreds. Then, and always with a dramatic flourish, Maxim would mount his silencer to the rifle and repeat the demonstration. This time there would be a mild click and a neat hole in the center of the calling card.

"No noise, no fuss, no muzzle blast," Hiram Maxim would tell the startled audiences who had heard nothing and had to be shown the card for proof the gun had fired.

By the time World War I primed to the shooting point, the Maxim Silencer Company was producing a line of quality silencers in calibres ranging from .22 through those large enough for machine guns. One special model was tested with a 4-inch artillary piece.

Silencer use during World War I was not widespread, despite all the publicity, and global marketing done by Maxim. The major use was by snipers, of course. Ordnance designers on both sides of the trenches were busily at work making prototypes. As one European source wrote me, "there were probably more prototypes all together than there were any one single production model silencer...excluding the Maxim, of course."

In 1917, selected Army snipers were issued Maxim-equipped Springfield rifles. Other troops were issued Springfields equipped with the Moore silencer — a not very effective competitor of Maxim. By the time, U.S. snipers got into action, German soldiers had already nicknamed silenced British sniper weapons as "whipsering death." The British weapons used Maxim silencers.

The Germans experimented with a silencer for the Luger military pistol during this period. According to Fred Datig in his authoritative book on the Luger, this 12-inch silencer was filled with rubber or composition baffles and steel wool-like material. The silencer was rejected following tests because of mechanical failure in the gun, too high a noise rate, and other factors.

Later experiments were conducted at the Luger factory in an attempt to perfect a silencer-equipped Luger. One attempt involved a low-power cartridge, but this caused the gun to jam. Following these World War I tests, German engineers apparently decided that the Luger simply was not suited for a silencer.

According to Siegfried Hubner, German snipers were operating in Russia in 1917, firing a silenced Mauser 98 (GEW 98) rifle.

Post-War silencer sales continued briskly for awhile, and the Maxim people concentrated exclusively on firearm silencers for small arms. But, the farsighted H. P. Maxim saw bigger visions for the future, as his son recalls.

"I joined the Company formally in 1922, following graduation from

M.I.T. We were producing the firearms silencers, a motor boat engine silencer, and early versions of something known as industrial silencers,'' Hamilton Maxim told me.

As public interest in firearms silencers waned, Hiram P. Maxim grew more concerned about industrial noise pollution. He phased out firearms silencers from company operations toward the end of 1925. Despite this, there would be a lot of Maxim silencers being used for years afterward.

My late father recalled that as a boy he used to shoot rats with an old Remington pump .22 fitted with one of Hiram Maxim's 1910 silencers, spending many fine Saturday afternoons decimating the rodent population quietly, and without distrubing the neighbors. When silencers were legal, those citizens who bought them used them while target shooting in the basement, allowing for the sport of punching holes in targets without blasting the family's ears and nerves upstairs. On the other hand, conservation people claimed that many hunters used silencers for poaching especially during the Depression.

''I'd have to agree with that,'' my dad grinned when I once asked him about that, ''I knew a few Depression era people who owed a lot of poached meals to Hiram Maxim.''

Another silent rig that proved popular among rat hunters and basement target blasters was the Hopkins and Allen ''Noiseless.'' George R. Numrich, Jr., a thoroughly interesting correspondent and the man who founded Numrich Arms, is now President of Hopkins and Allen. He wrote that his Company threaded the barrels on the muzzle end of some of their .22 rifles many years ago. Most of these threaded rifles accepted the Maxim silencer. Although many weapons' firms also threaded barrels for various silencers, the Hopkins and Allen rifles were perhaps the best known. This was because of their popularity as a shooting gallery and backyard plinking rifle — types of activity in which silenced firing was a virtue. Interestingly, in one of his letters to me, Mr. Numrich told me how his firm also produced a silencer for a Beretta .380 during the '40s, and delivered it to a foreign embassy in Washington — all with State Department blessing. According to Mr. Numrich, *his* part of the deal ended there!

Another early weapon fitted for a silencer was a special order Winchester Low Wall with a pistol grip stock. According to Garnett Stancil, Jr., who told me about this gun, the .32 weapon had an octagonal barrel with a set-screw arrangement to hold the silencer in place. According to Mr. Stancil, the owner used the gun to kill rodents and pests. However, the days of legal silencers for public use were clearly numbered by the early 1930s.

With the genius H. P. Maxim and his son out of the gun silencer business, two or three small manufacturers tried to pick up the pieces, but no grand business success came from the commercial production of silencers. Illegal ownership or use of silencers became a serious felony in this country under provisions of the 1934 National Firearms Act, as government law enforcement officials noticed the ''wrong'' people were using silencers to poach larger ''game,'' i.e., other people.

For example, one domestic group that used silencers occasionally was the

Dillinger-Nelson gang of the 1930s. ''Baby Face'' Nelson (nee Lester Gillis) was the gang's armourer, and the FBI has a fantastic collection of their weapons.

Nelson, who was a born experimenter, altered a .45 government semi-automatic pistol, filing down the sear, making the pistol a fully automatic machine pistol. He added a 20 round clip, a forward grip from a Thompson submachine gun, plus a fairly crude, homemade silencer. Two of these pistols were confiscated by FBI agents during a raid in St. Paul on 31 March 1934.

Another example of Nelson's ability is a Winchester .401 calibre autoloading rifle which he converted to fully automatic capability and topped off with a ''home-built'' silencer on its muzzle. This weapon is on display in the FBI headquarters in Washington.

According to Robert Elman, a firearms writer, that converted Winchester is fitted with a Thompson forward grip and a homemade silencer, which is fashioned from a Cutts compensator. Whatever the case, the .401 is a big, noisy rifle and converting it to full automatic fire turns it into a portable volcano of noise, fire, and destruction. And, one look at the small tube Nelson stuck on the end of the muzzle is enough to say ''NO'' to any truly effective silencing.

The late Larry Koller, a firearms expert who had examined both the silenced .45 and the .401, suggested that the silencers for each weapon would have had to be at least twice as large for effective suppression of muzzle noise. Having once seen an experimental silencer for a .45 government pistol about 9 inches long by 3 inches round, I think Mr. Koller's estimate is most conservative.

However, back in the rip-roaring '20s and '30s, the roaring chatter of Thomspon submachine guns outshouted the silencer-equipped criminal. At that time, the major market for silencers were the military agencies of the World's governments, as silence became part of modern warfare.

CHAPTER 3
SILENCERS GO TO WAR...AGAIN AND AGAIN

In pre-War America, silencer research was conducted at Fort Benning, the Frankford Arsenal and at Aberdeen Proving Ground to test the rationale that snipers using silencer-equipped rifles during World War I created morale problems among the enemy. In addition, the tests were conducted to discover the degree of difficulty a spotter might have in locating a silencer-equipped weapon. Other tests were conducted as to accuracy, performance, mechanical noise, efficiency, etc.

Results? In the Aberdeen tests, conclusions were that the silencers reduced noise on most of the weapons very effectively. However, mechanical noise was considerable and enabled the observers to locate the silenced weapons almost as easily as those fired without silencers. In another test, the officers concluded that the silencers were far too bulky for normal combat use. It is interesting to ponder that word "normal." I wonder if it was purposefully included in that conclusion by an officer who saw the need for silencers in the grey areas of secret warfare?

December 1941 ended military nit-picking as the nation suddenly found itself with a global war clawing away at its vitals. The idea was to fight and win. And, if that meant knocking off the enemy with silencers, so be it. But, that's where the OSS comes into the story.

As the U.S. rolled from isolationism into another World War, some of our military leaders realized that the war machine needed a quiet, espionage organization that could both gather intelligence plus produce a deadly brand of counter-espionage, and clandestine, behind-the-lines activity. From these ideas, and with the creative leadership of William "Wild Bill" Donovan, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) came into secret being. The ancestor of the CIA and the Army's Special Forces, this World War II group combined activities in intelligence, espionage and secret war. One of the OSS's first silenced weapons was a modified version of the Thompson submachine gun, equipped with a silencer built by Chrysler Corporation. The British also produced a silencer for this gun. Yet, no combat record is available. With or without a silencer, the Thompson is not a good combat gun, being heavy and quite susceptible to stoppage under field conditions. Mechanically, it is a noisy gun and unsuited to a silencer.

As a result, experiments were run late in 1942 with a silenced version of the newly developed M3 submachine gun, nicknamed the "Greasegun." The OSS contracted with the High-Standard Company to produce 1000 M3 submachine guns fitted with a silencer developed in 1942 by Bell Laboratories. Shortly, the silenced M3A1 cone came out as an improved model.

The unit was described as being moderately effective, as well as cheap and easy to build. These weapons were used in OSS operations. It was a good weapon. Not too surprisingly, some of these quiet killers started showing up in various post-war trouble spots, usually in unauthorized hands. For example, the Jewish Haganah used silenced M3A1s against the British in the late 1940s and early '50s. This weapon also turned up in Greece, Africa, and South America.

Then, there was the case of Costa Rica's President Jose Figueres, one of Latin America's truly democratic heroes, who helped halt an attempted airplane hijacking late in 1971. The diminuative chief executive seized a silenced M3A1 submachine gun (courtesy of U.S. Military Aid) and put a stop to the piracy of an aircraft by Castroite political outlaws. A popular and stable leader, Figueres' actions were viewed with alarm by his top administrators, officers, and an uptight U.S. State Department who worried about his safety.

However, back to World War II and the OSS. Some agents in the field did not favor either the Thompson or the M3. These people liked the lighter, quieter, simpler, more dependable, and more accurate British Sten submachine gun.

This fine silenced weapon, designated the Sten MKIIS, had been used successfully by British Commando units as well as some regular troops prior to its testing by the OSS. According to tests run at Frankford Arsenal, the sound of the M3 was that of a mild slap, while the Sten gave off only a quiet hiss.

The design and record of this gun was such that it was later used by Allied troops in Korea and by British troops in their anti-guerrilla war in Malaysia, and is still in use in Indochina.

The silenced Stens were first used in the Commando raids on Dieppe in 1942. Number Three Commando unit was put ashore at Berneval, and tried to scale heavily defended cliffs. Earlier, an idea had been offered to have frogmen sneak ashore the evening before and take out the enemy gunners using silenced Stens. For some reason, this plan was not utilized.

However, the silenced Stens did see action in another aspect of the war. In October of 1942, a group of Allied officers made a clandestine landing in France via submarine and rubber boat to discuss plans for the North African invasion and for the ultimate invasion of Europe with Loyalist Frenchmen. Meeting with free French leaders, the officers were dressed in tattered civilian clothes and carried quiet weapons.

Landed late at night, the group consisted of Major-General Mark Clark; Brigadier General Lyman Lemnitzer; plus Colonels Hamblen, and Holmes of the U.S. Army; Capt. Wright of the U.S. Navy; Capt. C. B. Courtney, Royal West Kent Regiment; Lt. R. P. Livingstone of the Royal Ulster Rifles; and Lt. J. P. Foote of the Dorsetshire Regiment.

The group was armed with three silenced Sten MKIIs guns, and each man had his choice of a silenced .22 pistol or a small European .32 with silencer. There is no report that any of these weapons was used during this vital mission.

In addition to its other weapons, the OSS also fitted the .30 calibre M1 carbine with a silencer. Originally developed at the Enfield facility in England, this weapon reportedly gave off a muffled ''piff'' when fired. Unhappily, security clamps, still in effect 30 years later, keep us from learning much about this weapon.

Hamilton Maxim told me that early in the War, he was visited by two ''very hush-hush'' OSS agents who wanted the Maxim Silencer Company to

go back into the gun silencer business.

''They told me they wanted a small, light weapon for use behind the enemy lines,'' Mr. Maxim said. ''So, I sat down with Roland Bourne, our very capable engineer, and we designed what we thought was an truly silent weapon.''

Basically, the new weapon was a 5-shot savage .32-20 modified for clandestine use and fitted with a special Maxim 1921 Model silencer. The unit was designed to be carried in two pieces, and when ready for use, hung in a special holster under the coat of its user. According to Mr. Maxim, when used with subsonic ammunition, the weapon was ''the nearest thing to a perfectly silenced gun as we've ever come.''

Chuckling, he added that the prototype weapon had been made from Roland Bourne's personal woodchuck rifle, and it had pained the engineer to modify one of his favorite guns. The history of that gun is interesting, also. According to Mr. Maxim, he took the gun to Washington for a demonstration at OSS headquarters.

''Lots of generals and other brass stood around duly impressed with our silent little Savage,'' Mr. Maxim recalls. ''The heck of it was they asked us to leave it with them. Later, I learned the OSS had loaned it to some Belgian underground leaders for testing, and none of us ever saw it again! There were no production orders, either!''

However, other silenced weapons did go into production, e.g., the silenced Colt Woodsman; an early model of the High Standard HD military model which is now unofficial ''issue'' for CIA and Special Forces use; a Stevens weapon; plus a couple others.

There is an amusing incident that ties in with the eilenced High Standard pistol. Stanley Lovell describes it in his book OF SPIES AND STRATAGEMS.

General Donovan took one of the first production models of the silenced pistol to the White House to present it to President Roosevelt. Donovan secreted the gun into the White House, carrying only a sand bag in his hand. He was admitted to the Presidential office where he placed the sand bag in a corner. The President was dictating to his secretary and no one was paying attention to General Donovan. He calmly drew his silenced pistol and with ten little ''clicks'' emptied the ntih of bullets into the sand bag. Reportedly, no one looked up until the General walked over to the President's desk, wrapped a hankerchief around the hot barrel and handed the pistol, butt first, to a startled Franklin Roosevelt who only then looked up.

''Mr. President, I've just fired 10 live bullets from this new OSS silent pistol into that sand bag,'' Donovan reportedly said.

The President looked the weapon over carefully, congratulated the General and his OSS researchers, then his eyes twinkled as he said, ''Bill, you're the only black Republican I'll ever allow in my office with a weapon like this!''

As an ironical postcript, the President immediately put the highly classi-

fied pistol on public display at the Roosevelt Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y. It was there for several days before someone noticed the breach of security and put the weapon under wraps until the end of the War.

Not all was so amusing. There is a chilling OSS legend told about a German-born American agent who made his way to Berlin from Madrid in December of 1943 to assassinate a ''sympathetic'' German diptomat who doubled as a Gestapo agent and who was getting too close to our interior intelligence networks. The German official was shot on the crowded Berlin streets, while the OSS man easily made his getaway into the crowds. It was ten minutes until secret police arrived to discover their man had been shot. His heavy clothing had soacked up the blood hiding the assassination. The weapon used was the silenced .22 calibre HD.

Harry Reeves was another OSS operative who used the silenced HD model. On special missions in China and Burma, Reeves, who had many occassions to use the weapon, noted that the weapon's report was no louder than the sound of striking a kitchen match. Of course, the mechanical noise of the breech opening, ejecting, loading and closing did make additional noise. That is why a manually operated pistol is a far more silent weapon.

Just such a weapon is one whose exact ancestry is murky, though it is thought to have been a cooperative effort between British and American designers. Known as the Welrod, this weapon was produced in .32 ACP, 9MM, and in .45 ACP As the silencer was an integral part of the weapon, it was one of the few weapons designed specifically for silent and secret operations, i.e., terror and assassination missions.

One source, an OSS engineer during the War, claimed the Welrod was to have been supplied to French Underground units prior to the D-Day Invasion. Instead, Resistance Forces were air-dropped British Sten submachine guns, including a supply of the silenced models.

Officially designated the Hand Firing Device Mk. I, the weapon got the name Welrod because it was initially produced in a plant located in Wells, England. Taking the American slang word ''rod'' meaning gun, someone tied it to the plant location, and a new name was coined.

A former OSS agent with whom I spoke said he had carried one in France, and used it to eliminate several German officers. Another former OSS agent, retired Colonel John S. Wood, president of Security Arms Company, also recalled his use of the Welrod during clandestine actions in France during World War II.

In this line, the OSS supply list is interesting. The ''normal'' OSS ordnance materials issued to agent William J. Morgan for his assignment behind enemy lines included the following: A .32 Welrod pistol; an M1911A1 .45 pistol; a .22 calibre silenced HD pistol; an ordinary blackjack; a spring-snapper cosh (blackjack); a lapel dagger; cameras and lots of film; two sleeping bags; a large box of time pencils and other detonating devices; an army blanket; a swtichblade; a commando knife; and fishskins to cover explosives.

Then, there was the other side of the secret war, as the Germans were not far behind in this clandestine area. Indeed, the Germans produced one of

the war's most unique silenced weapons, when the Gestapo had their ultra-secret assassination weapon built in 1939. Under great security measures, this weapon was built on the personal order of Count von Helldorf, the Berlin chief of the Secret Police. A short, stumpy, 9mm carbine, the weapon disassembled into three component parts which were carried in a small attache case. In addition to a silencer, the weapon used a 7 power telescopic sight, and fired specially loaded subsonic dum-dum bullets which expanded violently upon the impact of slamming into their target.

Two of these guns were produced, and only one has survived the War. It was the second gun, bearing serial number 2, that was found in the ruins of von Helldorf's home as Berlin fell in 1945. After the war, it was sold to an American officer in West Berlin. However, it took two years of red tape, examination, testimony, and paperwork to get this weapon cleared for import to this country. During that time, it was tested and examined by several U.S. government intelligence organizations (and the design probably stolen as well) before the Treasury Department finally turned it over to the man who had bought it. Until recently, the gun was owned by James Atwood of Savannah, Georgia. Now, however, it is owned by a gun collector in New England.

There is not too much documented use of silencer-equipped weapons by troops of the Third Reich, and most of these revolve around Germany's extraordinary commando, Col. Otto Skorzeny. When Skorzeny rescued Benito Mussolini from his mountaintop ''prison'' in 1943, silencer-equipped Mauser 98K rifles were part of the plan. These were to be used to quietly knock out any sentries, but as the escape plan went off so well, there was no need for the silenced guns.

Yet, as easily as Skorzeny used silenced weapons for his own missions, he ran into a solid wall of objection when it came to adapting these weapons to Germany's use.

For example, in 1942, Skorzeny obtained a Sten MKIIS, captured from British casualties in the Dieppe Raid. To test it in a most dramatic manner, he invited weapons experts from the German General Staff to his spy training school at Friendenthal for a walk through the gardens. While they walked, he had one of his men follow some 30 meters behind, firing the silenced Sten into the air. The VIP visitors heard nothing, yet soon saw the shell cases scattered on the ground, examined the gun, and later saw a motion picture of the entire ''experiment.'' Skorzeny expected delighted surprise. Instead, the officers were furious at the ''embarrassing exhibition'' and refused to consider the Sten or any silenced weapon.

Yet, there are a few other stories of silencers in the Nazi war memoirs, e.g., when the Germans occupied Prague, their military people took over the arms work and began producing Czech Model 27 pistols with a barrel specially threaded for silencers. According to Helmut Streicher, a former German intelligence officer, this weapon was issued to a team of Skorzeny's agents who were to attempt the kidnap or murder of General Eisenhower prior to the German counter-offensive during the 1944 Christmas season. During the Battle of the Bulge counter-offensive, a half dozen MP's were shot by English-speaking Germans using the Czech model 27.

As World War II cooled into Cold War, silenced death went into low-profile. One of Britain's top agents at that time, Ronald Gray, told me that it was a time for testing new devices. One of these was a thick mitten made from an old inner tube that was concealed in a hand cast. Devised by British soldier, author, criminologist, and inventor Hugh Pollard during WWII, this unique device was reportedly also used in war-divided Berlin during the American-Russian scramble for power. Ron Gray told me of seeing its use during his tours in Berlin in 1948-1949. John Minnery wrote that this device is known as the "Churchill Gauntlet."

As far as silencer use was concerned, the Korean action was a dry hole in ordnance history. During the invasion of Inchon in the Fall of 1950, American and British commando units armed with British Sten MKIIS submachine guns infiltrated prior to the invasion for general harrassment. Elite South Korean forces also had silenced weapons for pre-invasion deception behind the lines.

Sniping was accomplished with a few silenced M1 Garands, but mostly with Springfield rifles equipped with Maxim silencers — a combination re-treaded from the First World War. All in all, silencers were a very minimal part of the Korean War.

However, the dirty, cruel jungle warfare between France and the Viet Minh, forerunners of the Viet Cong, is another story. Guerilla war is an ideal for clandestine missions and silent death, i.e., the use of silenced weapons. Britain had proved this with its use of the Sten MkIIS, the silenced Sterling, and the DeLisle Carbine, a shortened, silanced version of their service rifle, which was used in Malaysia and against the Mau Mau in Africa. The French also had their turn. Much of the silenced ordnance in Indochina was leftover from OSS activities or was brought to the area by the hordes of ex-German soldiers who'd found a haven in the post-War French Foreign Legion. The silenced weapons list included: "M3 Greasegun;" Sten MkIIS submachine gun; HD military pistol; French MAT-49 submachine gun; Mauser 98 rifle; Schmeisser MP40 submachine gun; plus a myriad of other silenced units in fewer quantities.

One of the best accounts of the dirty killing in Indochina during the early '50s phase of that continuing war is Robert Elford's DEVIL'S GUARD, the true story of a former German officer who led a Legion unit in counter-guerilla warfare. His narrative is loaded with action, horror, pathos, etc., and there are many exciting, interesting accounts of the use of silenced firearms.

One technique described by Elford involved dropping three sharpshooters armed with silenced Mauser 98 rifles off shortly after the Legion outfit passed through a village. The sharpshooteers quickly dooled back in time to see the inevitable messangers carrying word of the French unit's passage to Viet Minh forces. Waiting until the messagers were well out of sight from the village, the sharpshooters used their scoped, silenced rifles to eliminate the enemy's grassroots intelligence forces quickly and quietly.

Elford also includes stories about using the silenced rifles for hunting non-human game while behind enemy lines. The unit's sharpshooters cleaned

out guards, machine gunners, and enemy officers during a Legion raid dangerously close to the Chinese border.

As the lukewarm wars of the '50s began to heat into the Super Wars of the '60s,the U.S. was concerned about the Communist base just 90 miles from out southern shores. It was during thisera that President John Kennedy was persuaded that Fidel Castro had to go — one way or another.

According to former Army Captain Brad Ayers, who was on loan to the CIA as a training officer during the early 1960s, agents equipped with silencer-equipped weapons were sent into Cuba on various missions during his tour with the agency. As a CIA-Army instructor, Ayers and his group instructed the agents in the use of various weapons and the firing characteristics of the silenced weapons. That was all he would tell me.

Although the equipment purchased for this job was secret, I have learned from another source that one of three assassination teams had Belgian semi-automatic military rifles with Cuban markings and fitted with scope sights and silencers. This makes sense, as the Cuban issue weapon was also the Belgian FN. This way, the assassination might look like an inside job.

This story is a sequel to earlier CIA plot to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro both before, then after, the Bay of Pigs fiasco. Another team of sharpshooters, armed with the silencer-equipped Belgian rifles made it as far as a rooftop within 200 yards of Castro when they were caught in March of 1963. Reportedly, one of the CIA's assassins was an American soldier of fortune. The other three were Cuban nationals. None was ever heard from again. Either way, the CIA naturally denies all knowledge of any assassination plot. So, while operational details of these missions and the men who went on them are scarce, information about later activities and weapons is a little easier to gather.

Another CIA-sponsored assassination plot is revealed in the manuscript of a book being written by Robert Brown about the agency. This attempt, which took place in 1965 involved a paid assassin named Rolando Cubelas Sacada. In reading Brown's notes, one gets the distinct impression that the Agency picked an anateur for this tough job — a man whose main claim to anything was his political rhetoric.

The assassination weapon was again to be a 7.62MM Belgian Assault Rifle equipped with large telescopic sight and a homemade silencer. The silencer was a crude, amateurish affair, being basically a plastic cyclinder, steel bore center, and steel wool packing. According to one observer, it looked like someone's "homemade junk." Of course, this was probably a CIA attempt to once more make the assassination look like a inside job. The unit was smuggled into Cuba in a diplomatic pouch. In any event, the plot failed when someone talked, and the would-be assassin is now sitting in a Cuban prison. One source holds that Sacada was a double-agent, acting in a Castro plot to discredit the U.S. Will we ever know?

With the exception of Capt. Gary Powers, former CIA pilot who was captured with his intact spy kit and silenced HD pistol, silencer-equipped Cold War weapons rarely made headlines. However, another incident took place in

the middle 1960s, when a double-agent named Geyer fled to East Berlin with copies of microfilm records on 300 western intelligence agents from the Gehlen Bureau, West Germany's spy outfit. Within two weeks, one of the Gehlen Bureau's contacts in the eastern zone of the city spotted Geyer boarding a Soviet plane bound for deep behind the Iron Curtain. His trail was picked up in Russia, he was watched and within a month, Geyer was back in Berlin wearing a disguise.

"We got to him, with the help of your CIA people," former spy Helmut Streicher told me. "Two of our people staked out his apartment from across the street, and one morning when he came out of the door, one of our agents popped him with a silenced Winchester rifle — POOF! No more Geyer. And our men dined in West Berlin that night, after returning the weapon and silencer to your people."

But, this isolated activity was being forced off the front pages and television screens by a real war that was growing hotter every day. The dateline didn't have a familiar ring to it in 1962 when UPI announced that two American soldiers has been killed in Vietnam.

Vietnam? In 1962 that was a fair question.

CHAPTER 4

SILENCER TEST LAB... VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA, ETC.

The young officer crawled to within 30 meters of the village from which his men had taken fire. By hand signal he ordered his small unit forward. As the Special Forces team advanced across the short plain toward the quiet village, three rag-tag figures broke out of a hut about 50 meters from the officer.

"VC...VC...," he heard his sergeant shout from somewhere behind him.

Snuggling flat to the ground, the officer raised his short, ugly rifle and squeezed the trigger. The air remained quiet — there were no shattering explosions despite the empty cartridge casings flying out his rifle's ejection port. The calm was shattered only by the howl and scream from two wounded VC thrashing on the ground. The third was dead.

Later, during interrogation, the two prisoners were asked why they simply didn't get up and run after being shot, as neither was more than barely wounded. They replied that they had heard no shots and had thought some magic power had struck them all down. They were petrified to move because of the powerful magic of quiet death that had killed their friend.

The silenced death had come from an exotic weapon designed specifically for the dirty war in Indochina. It was a military version of the Ruger 10-22 Carbine, a semi-automatic .22 carbine. The short, deadly rifle was a midnight black color and had a thick, combination silencer-barrel on the end of the receiver. Like other silenced weapons, it finds many uses on special missions in Vietnam.

Hit and run warfare in Indochina had been a humbling experience for America's military planners. Tons of bombs, napalm, rockets, and artillery from the world's most sophisticated weapons have been showered upon an army of dedicated, yet largely ignorant peasants. As the smoke, explosions and fire drift away, the war-toughened enemy goes on fighting. It's like sending a technologically dropsic elephant out to stomp a fast-on-his-feet mouse. Thus, at the beginning, only a few Americans appreciated the nuances of warfare ala Uncle Ho. And, that beginning was years ago.

The war in Asia had come a long haul since those Eisenhower era days when the youthful CIA secretly snuck a small band of operatives called the Saigon Military Mission into Indochina in 1954. Headed by the legendary General (then Colonel) Edward Lansdale, the unit was assigned to prevent a complete Communist takeover after the predicted French defeat late in the summer of that year. The fact that their operation in both North and South Vietnam clearly violated the Geneva agreements did not, and has not, seemed to bother the U.S. government one whit.

Lansdale later sent a CIA team to Hanoi in an attempt to sabotage Ho Chi Minh's Communist consolidation of power. The mission involved training and planting agents, saboteurs, and assassins in Hanoi before the Viet Minh seized total control in Hanoi. The leader of this team was Army Major Lucien Conein, who then led his men in an attempt to save the shakey Diem regime in the South. Ironically, nine years later and still with the CIA, Major Conein

Photo Courtesy of Hiram H. Maxim

Son and Father prepare to test a Springfield '03 with Maxim silencer...Hiram H. Maxim and Hiram P. Maxim in 1909.

Photo Courtesy of Hirem H. Maxim

Hiram P. Maxim holds a Winchester .30-30 rifle equipped with his first silencer. He soon junked this model and perfected his silencer design. Others in the picture include 8-year old Hiram H. Maxim who later became President of the Maxim Silencer Company; T. W. Goodridge, Maxim's business partner; Mr. L. Jenkins, a patent attorney; and Simeon Britt, the machinist who made the silencer.

Photo Courtesy of Hiram H. Maxim

Hiram H. Maxim, 8-year old son of inventor Hiram P. Maxim, holds his father's 1903 Springfield with its Maxim silencer. Young Maxim used to fire the big rifle during exhibitions.

Photo Courtesy of Pennsylvania National Guard

In 1911, selected units saw demonstrations of new equipment...including the '03 Springfield with its Maxim silencer and Model 1908 Warner-Swaysey scope and Model 1905 Bayonet.

Photo Courtesy of J. David Truby

Author discusses silencer for the 1903 Springfield with Hiram H. Maxim.

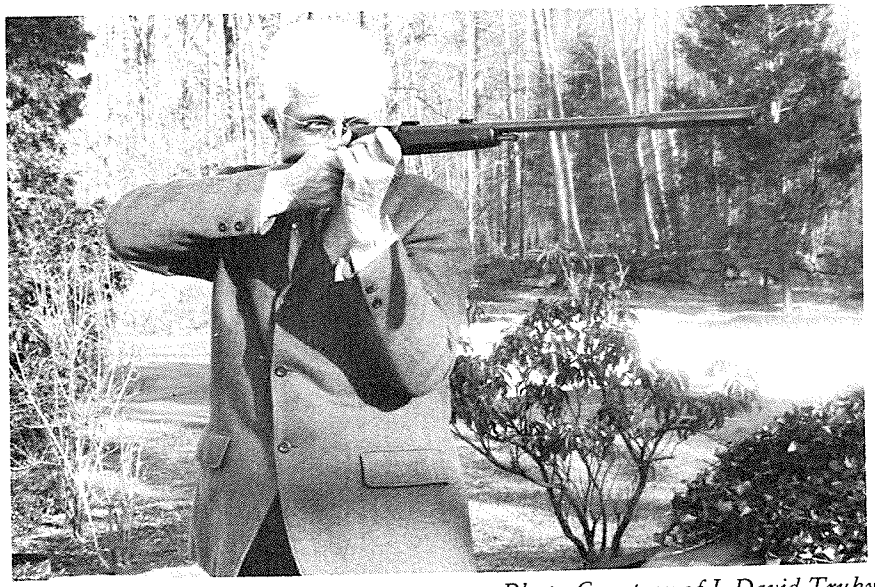
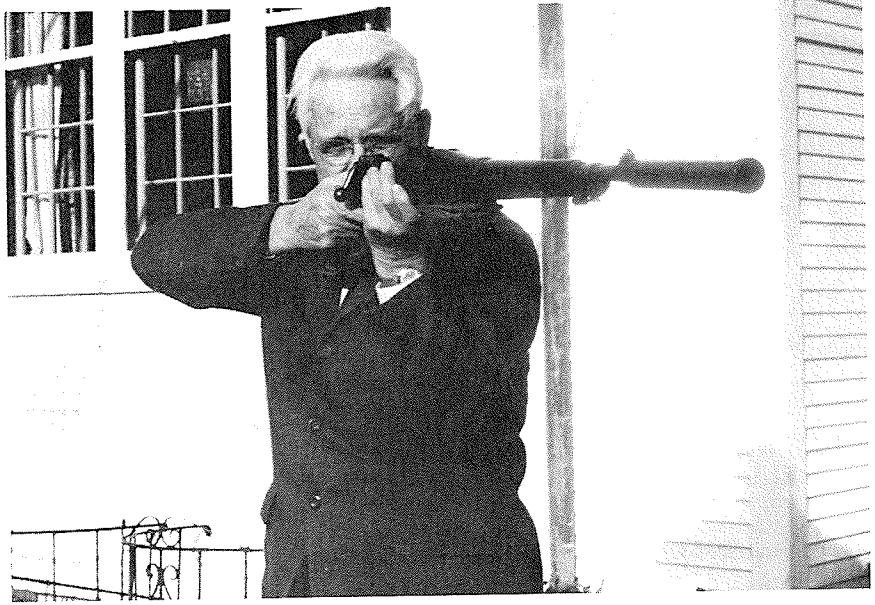


Photo Courtesy of J. David Truby

Hiram H. Maxim fires a .22 rifle, equipped with one of the Company's early silencers. With subsonic ammo, the unit is still highly effectivem



Hiram H. Maxim, son of the silencer's inventor, sights the very same silenced Springfield he ''tested'' 63 years ago.

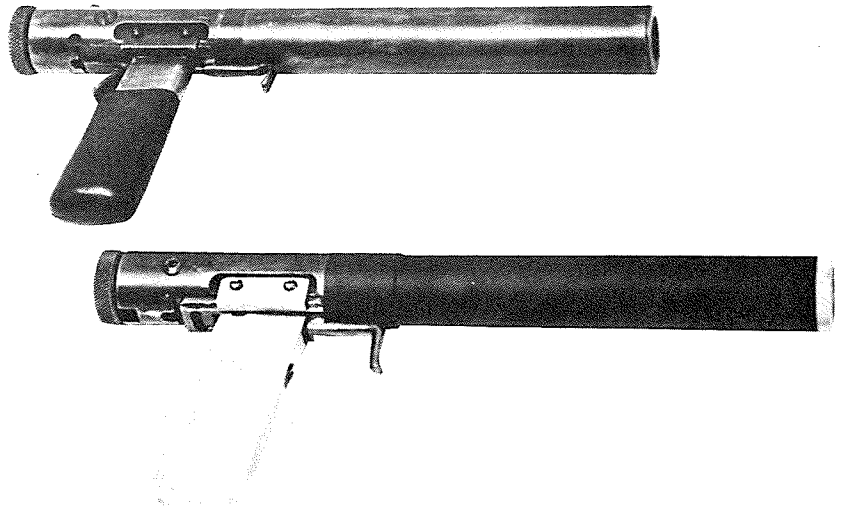


Photo Courtesy of Military Armament Corporation

Two generations of Welrod — silenced espionage pistol. Top is the WWII version; bottom is the newer MAC weapon with replaceable front-end silencer.

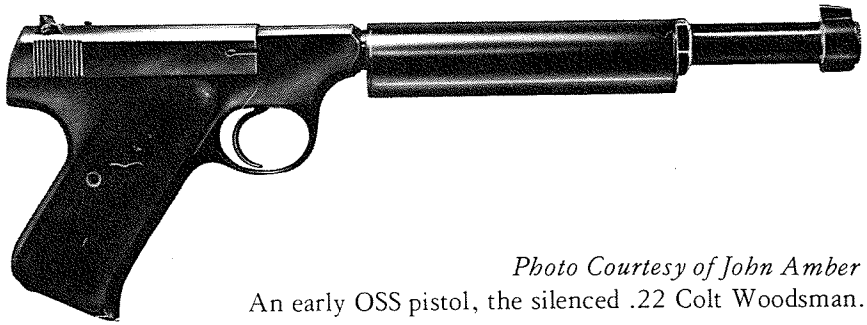


Photo Courtesy of John Amber

An early OSS pistol, the silenced .22 Colt Woodsman.

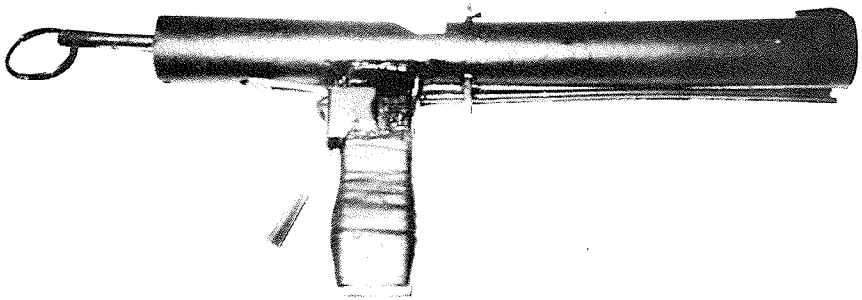


Photo Courtesy of John Minnery

The Librod pistol, a .22 calibre hybrid of the Welrod-Liberator genre...invented by a Canadian ordnance expert, it's an ideal assassination pistol.

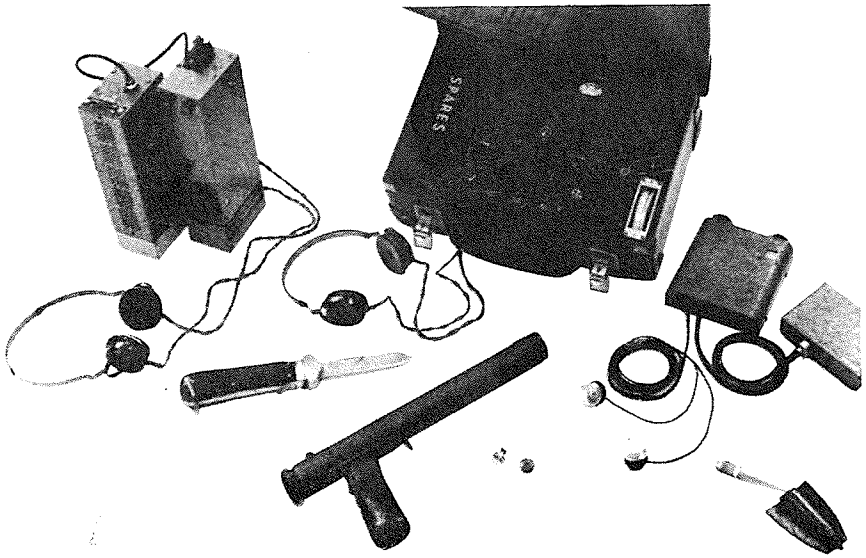


Photo Courtesy of John Minnery

A WWII-era kit for SOE agents sent behind enemy lines. The pistol is a silenced Welrod.

Photo Courtesy of Jack V. Krcma

Ordnance official holds loaded clip for Welrod pistol.

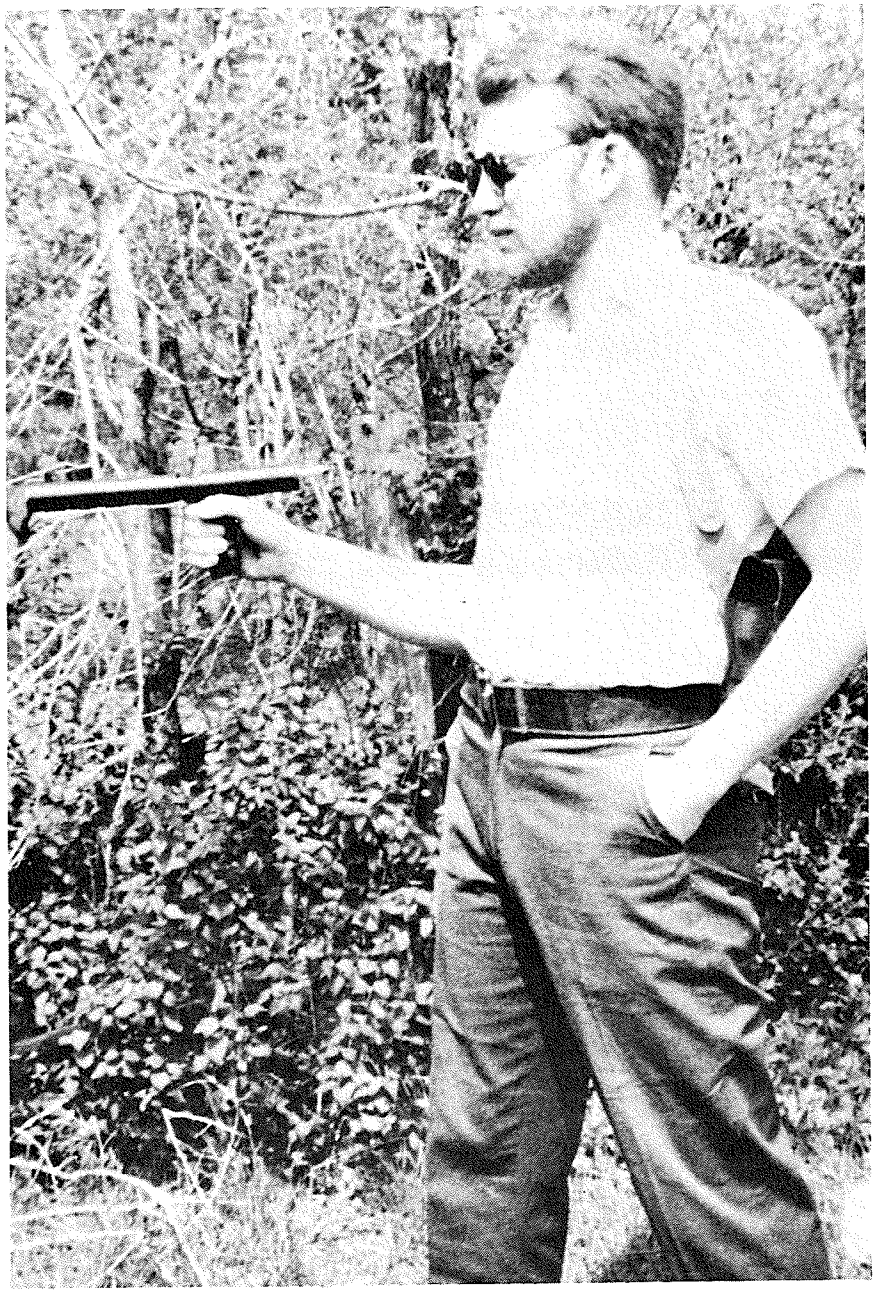


Photo Courtesy of John Minnery

Firing the Librod pistol, designed by Canadian John Minnery.

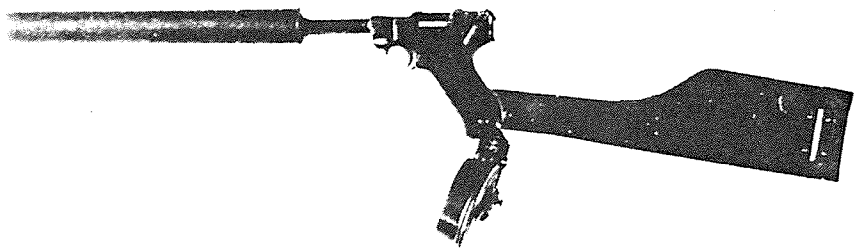


Photo Courtesy of Bundesministerium der Verteidigung

Luger with drum magazine, shoulder stock and silencer...developed during WWI.

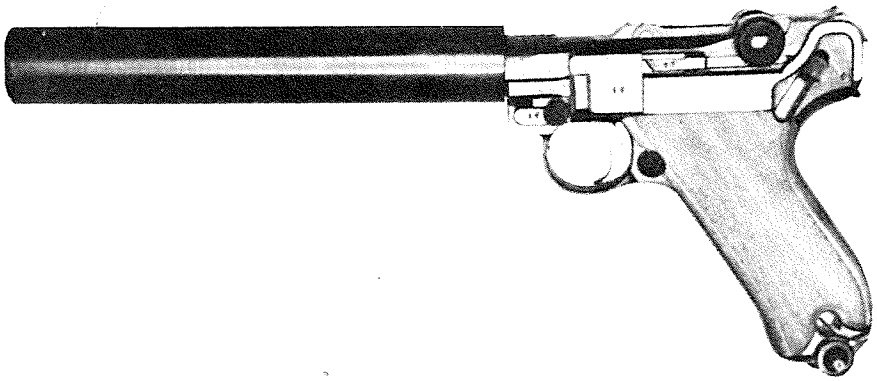


Photo Courtesy of Siegfried Hubner

Silenced Luger PO8 pistol circa WWII

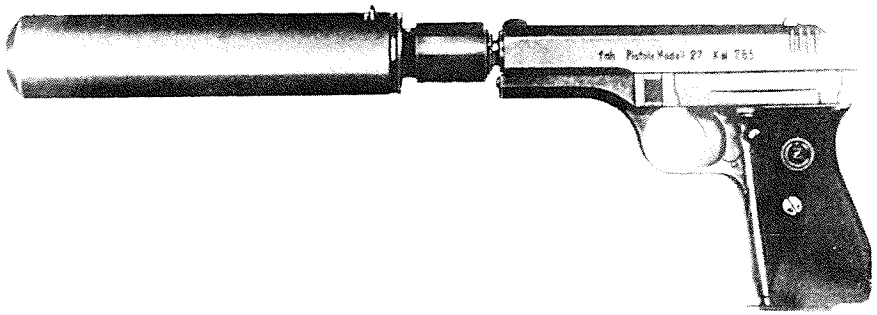


Photo Courtesy of Siegfried Hubner

Silenced Czech Model 27 pistole, used by the Gestapo during WWII.

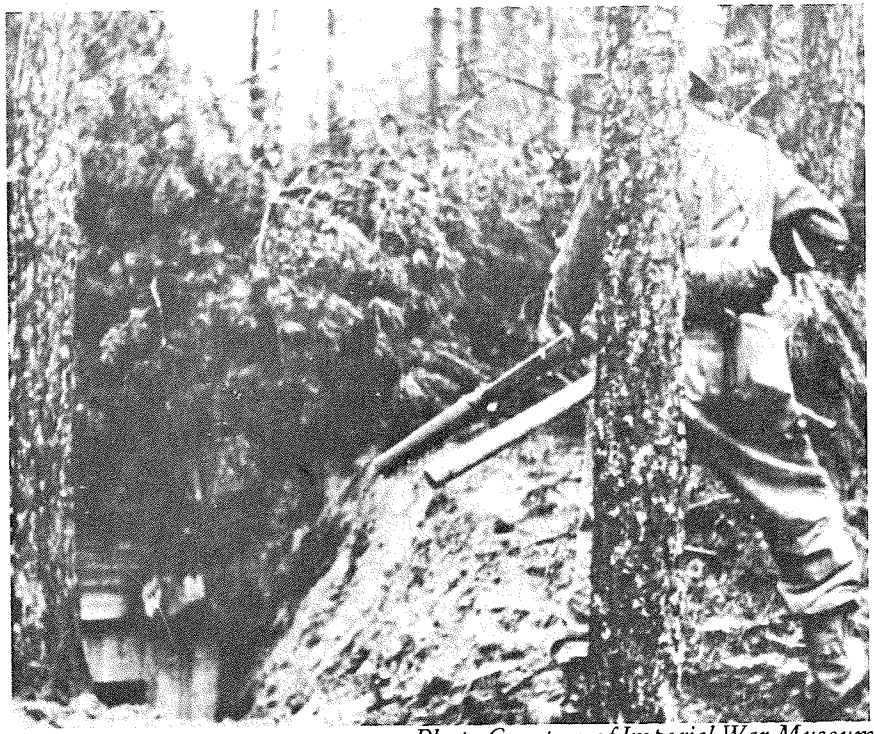


Photo Courtesy of Imperial War Museum

British soldier armed with silenced Enfield MkIV rifle checks a German bunker during mop-up operations in France.

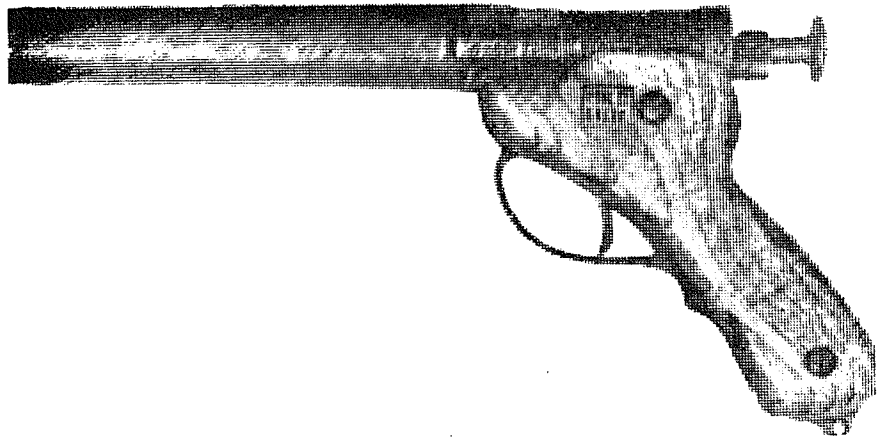


Photo Courtesy of J. David Truby

Czech pistol with experimental silencer built in Europe sometime during the 1920s.

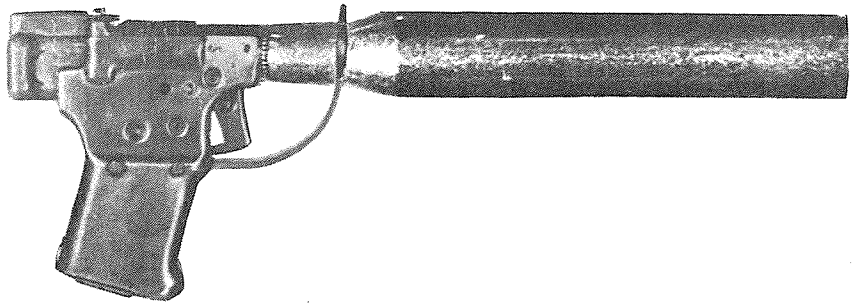


Photo Courtesy of J. David Truby

FP-45 pistol, commonly known as the "Liberator" was a U.S. weapon supplied to Resistance units during WWII. Silenced versions of the .45 weapon were turned out in underground workshops. The appearance was crude, but the silenced weapon was very effective. General Motor's Guide Lamp Division turned out experimental silenced Liberators in addition to the "homemade" models. This unit saw action in France.

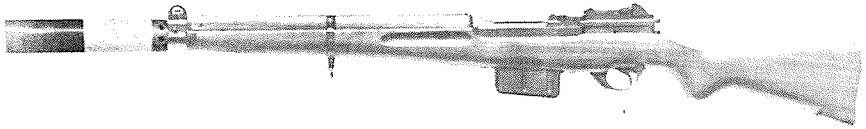


Photo Courtesy of J. David Truby

Silenced Belgian FN rifle, first used in 1949. Small numbers of this rifle-silencer combination were used by Belgian snipers during the Korean War.

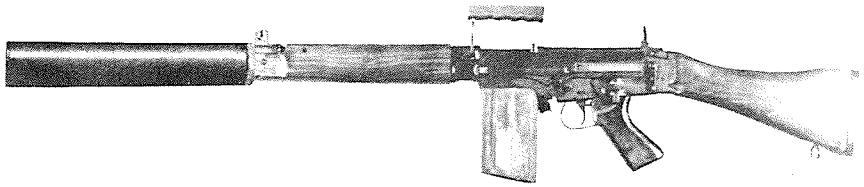


Photo Courtesy of J. David Truby

A silenced FN C1A1 was reportedly used in one of the plots to assassinate Fidel Castro. The silencer on this FN C1A1 is a prototype model tested with the weapon in the early '60s.

Photo Courtesy of Parabellum Corporation

Undercover activity with the silenced Ingram M10 submachine gun. These activities are popular South of Miami.

U.S. Army Photo

In the field — Vietnam. Combat photo of American troops on a mission. Trooper at left is armed with an M16A1 with a silencer.

J. David Truby Photo

Donald G. Thomas of Military Armament Corporation fires the silenced Ingram M10 submachine gun.

Photo Courtesy of Keystone

Chinese rifleman in the background is carrying a silenced rifle. Chinese used these weapons in WWII and Korea for sniping and harrassment. Viet Cong use them now.

Photo Courtesy of Siegfried Hubner

Silencer device for revolver, invented by Siegfried Hubner, one of the premier silencer experts in Europe. Device completely covers the weapon and renders it noiseless.

Photo Courtesy of Siegfried Hubner

Siegfried Hubner with a silenced Walther MPK. Mr. Hubner designed the silencer used with this West German security weapon.

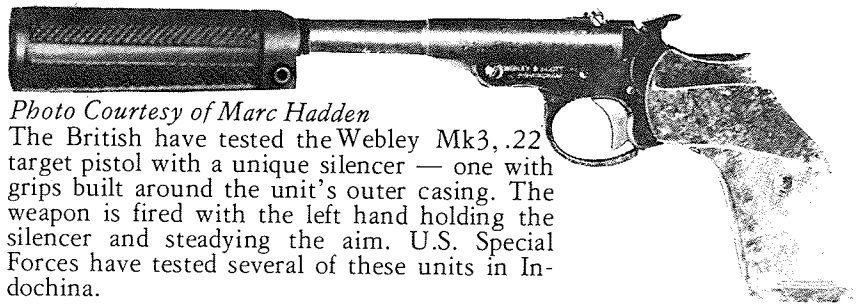


Photo Courtesy of Marc Hadden

The British have tested the Webley Mk3, .22 target pistol with a unique silencer — one with grips built around the unit's outer casing. The weapon is fired with the left hand holding the silencer and steadying the aim. U.S. Special Forces have tested several of these units in Indochina.

Photo Courtesy of Robert K. Brown

Mitchell L. WerBell III (right) of MAC demonstrates the silenced Ingram M10 to a Special Forces NCO at a secret base in Indochina. Civilian at left is John Paul Vann, top U.S. Advisor recently killed in Vietnam.

Photo Courtsey of Donald G. Thomas

The author fires a silenced Browning pistol belonging to Mitchell L.WerBell III.

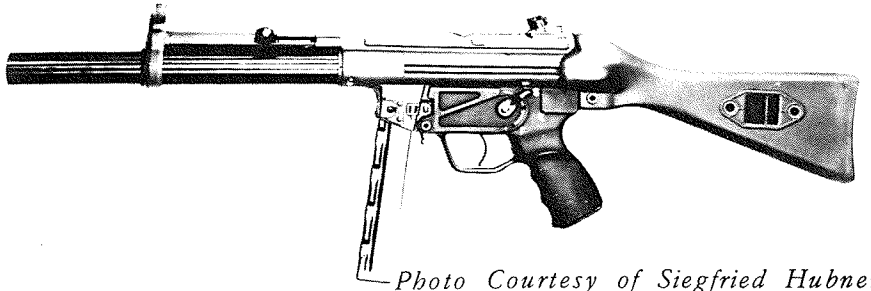


Photo Courtesy of Siegfried Hubner

Silenced Heckler & Koch assault weapon

Photo Courtesy of Donald G. Thomas

Author Truby fires the silenced M3A1 submachine gun

Carlos Cordoba Jose Fugueres, President of Costa Rica, personally helped foil a hijack attempt by Castroites in December of 1971. Figueres used a silenced M3A1 submachine gun.

Photo Courtesy of Donald G. Thomas

Mitchell L. WerBell III and J. David Truby discuss merits of the Thompson center fire weapon equipped with a silencer and stock designed by Werbell.

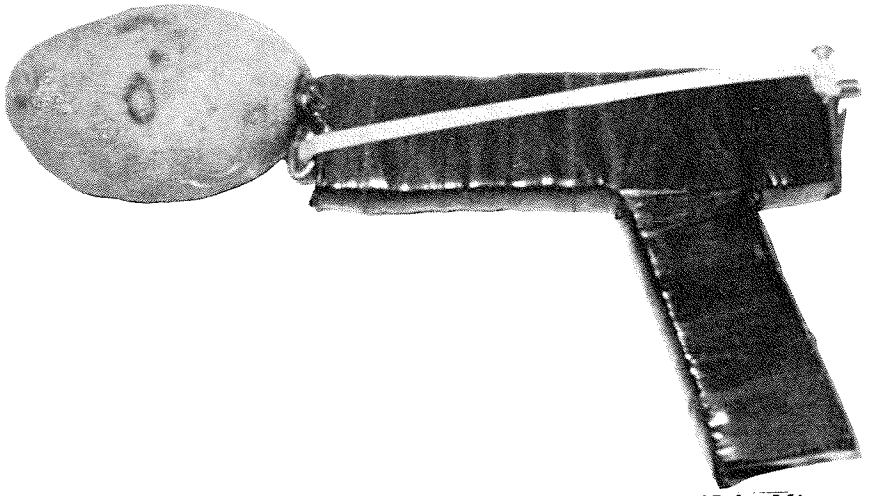


Photo Courtesy of John Minnery

A "Spud Silencer" used by IRA terrorists for one-shot terror tactics. It's reported as "messy, but damned effective." The weapon is a single-shot, .22 Zip Gun that would do credit to any New York Street Gang Armorer. The silencer is an Irish "home grown" variety.

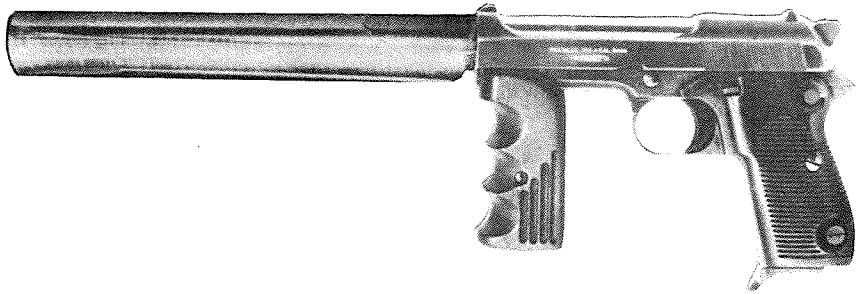


Photo Courtesy of Peter Ecyk

A 9mm Beretta was altered for full auto fire, fitted with a pistol grip and a heavy, fabricated silencer. This unit turned up in Pakistan in the early '60s. The silencer was fastened to a long barrel, and the finish was quite crude. But, it worked.

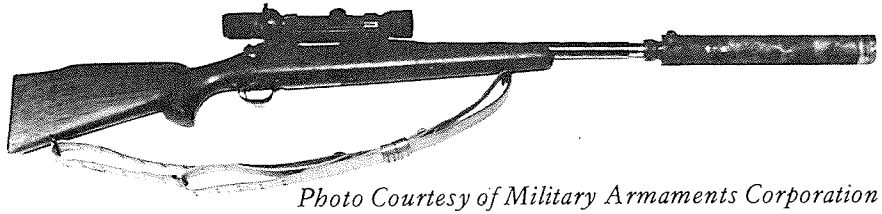


Photo Courtesy of Military Armaments Corporation

The military's master sniper weapon — a Remington Model 700, 7.62mm, with auto-ranging scope and MAC silencer.

Photo Courtesy of Cambist Films

Female ''nasty'' from film ''Cry Uncle'' holds silenced High Standard pistol which was featured in the film.

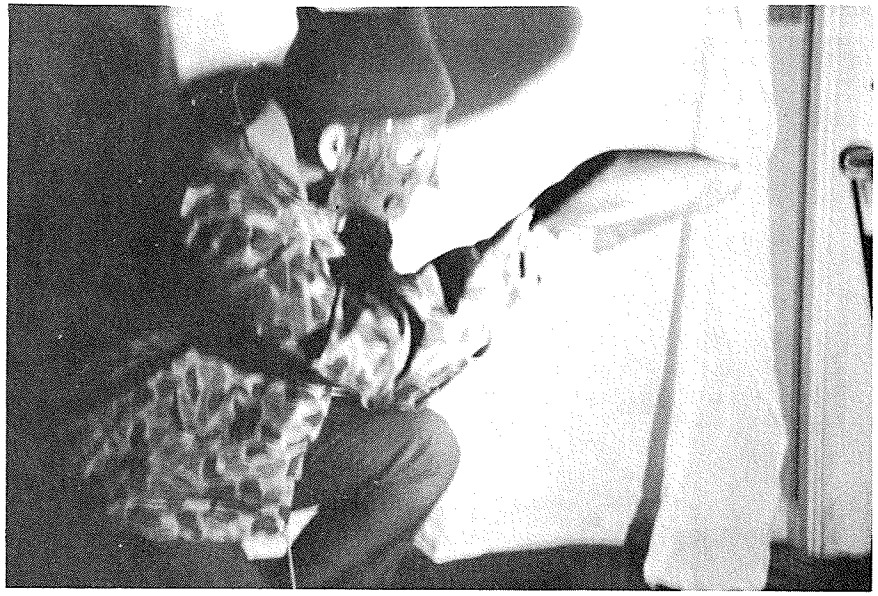


Photo Courtesy of John Minnery

Candid action shot of an agent using a ''Churchill Gauntlet,'' a rubber, inner-tube-like device used for silencing pistols in early Cold War espionage missions. It was developed by Britain's Hugh Pollard during WWII, and was used in Berlin in the late '40s by British agents.

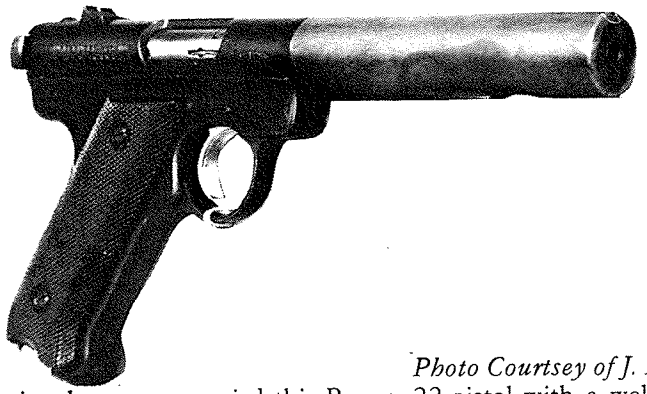


Photo Courtsey of J. David Truby

Aprofessional gunman carried this Ruger .22 pistol with a well-engineered silencer.

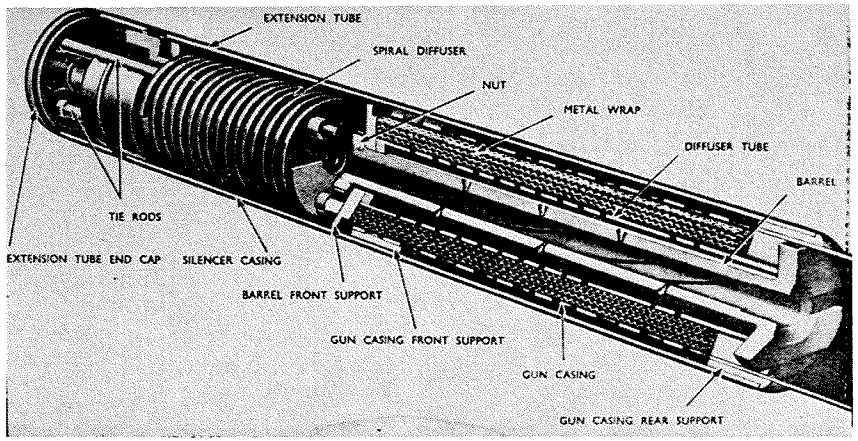


Photo Courtesy of Advanced Technology Center

Cutaway diagram of a typical silencer

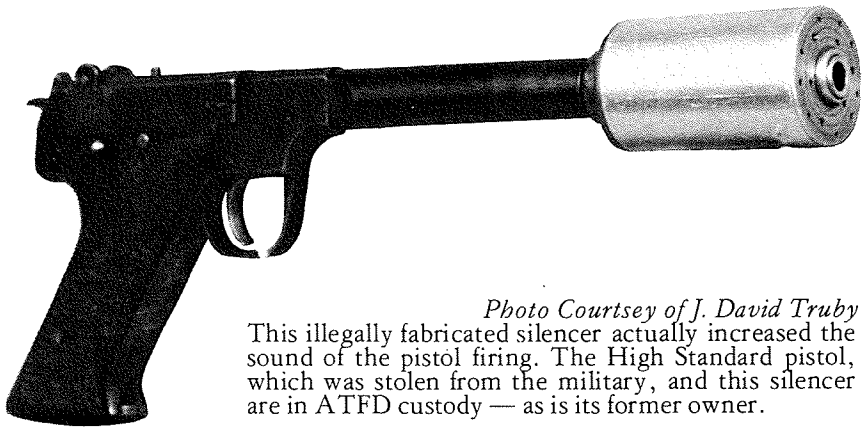


Photo Courtsey of J. David Truby

This illegally fabricated silencer actually increased the sound of the pistol firing. The High Standard pistol, which was stolen from the military, and this silencer are in ATFD custody — as is its former owner.

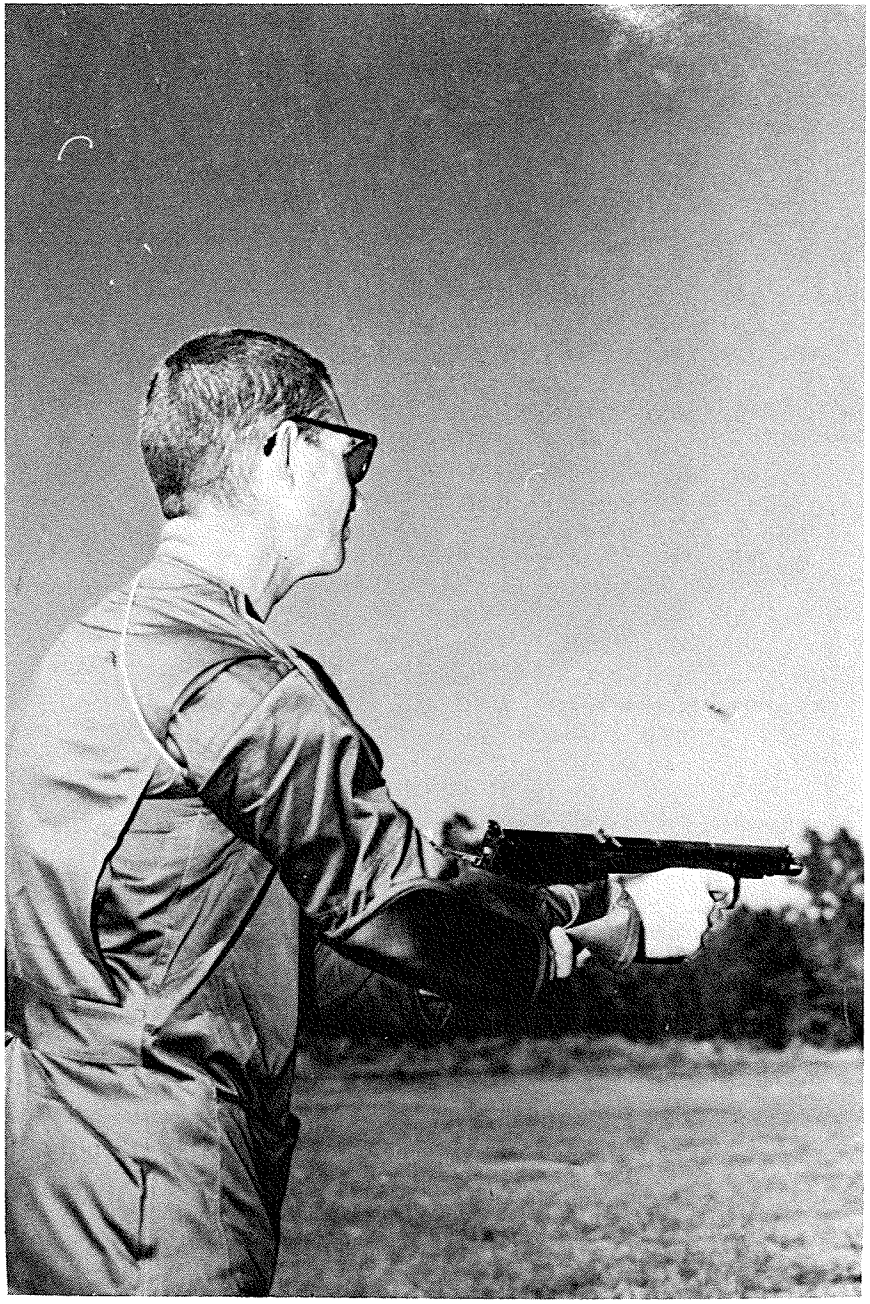


Photo Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

The IMP survival weapon is an innovative new design. Only a handful of silenced protypes exist — despite great interest in the concept.

would sit in on the planning for the Agency-sponsored over throw and execution of the corrupt Diem.

Southeast Asia had radically altered our concept of warfare, including the use of unconventional methods and weapons, including silencers. As the Vietnam War spilled over all of Indochina, the role and mission of the overt military and the covert CIA had become vague at times. Generally though, the CIA and the army's elite Green Berets have teamed up to do war's dirty work.

It became evident in the very early days of the Vietnam war that the Special Forces were to be the muscle for the CIA, performing most of the rough field duty. Indeed, the first reported American casualties of that war were two Green Berets, killed on a covert mission in April of 1962.

The nature of the war in Indochina is suited to the use of silenced weapons, as the advantages of silencers in the combat zone of an irregular war are many. In Vietnam, for example, the enemy frequently has two scouts traveling five to ten minutes ahead of the main patrol. However, couriers often travel singly or in pairs. To mistake couriers for scouts and allow them to pass through an ambush in the hope of catching the main body will allow two couriers to pass unharmed. The use of the silencer-equipped sniper rifle will stop scouts or couriers, and also allow successful ambush of any of the main body, should one be following.

Another problem is the one faced by Long Range Recon Patrols, in that they sometimes run into isolated enemy units. Silenced weapons allow them to overcome this problem without alerting the entire countryside to their presence.

For example, despite administration denials that American ground troops have crossed into Cambodia and Laos since our withdrawal from that area in June of 1970, ambush teams of U.S. Special Forces troops and South Vietnamese Rangers have made raids into both countries since early in 1971. These patrols were on special assassination, sniping, and ambush missions, working with silenced weapons, including M16A1 and M14 rifles equipped with Sionics' silencers. There were reports of other silencer-equipped weapons used, e.g., the Israeli Uzi, the M3A1 submachine gun, the Ruger 10-22 Carbine, and High Standard's HD pistol.

In addition, many other weapons are operational, including Remington's silenced Model 700 rifles for sniper teams, a specially designed CIA assassination pistol, and a silenced .22 calibre submachine gun.

Major E. S. Holt of the Royal Australian Engineers described the combat use of our M14 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight and the Sionics silencer during his tour of duty in Vietnam.

"A group of nine Viet Cong were walking along a paddy in the Delta area of South Vietnam. The late afternoon light was softening into early evening haze when both the first and last Viet Cong stumbled and fell. As the squad waited for the two fallen members to regain their footing two mare tumbled from the group. Ten one after the other the remainder of the squad fell silently into the rice field.

If the Viet Cong had been alive to watch they would have seen two men dressed in camouflage green uniforms rise from sparse cover almost 700 meters away. They would have seen the two men holding what might at that distance appear to be very long-barrelled rifles. But as the squad members had been efficiently and effectively killed by the silenced M14 rifles of the two-man sniper team, they saw nothing.''

The weapon used by these teams was a ''match modified'' M14 equipped with the scope and Sionics silencer. For evening work, the image-brightening starlite Scope is used, and for night firing, modified infrared sights are employed. Using spotter-firer teams, the sniper units had a great deal of success, and attracted allied military attention. Before the end of 1968, there was a training school for sniper teams set up at Dong Tam. Training emphasized skill at concealment, marksmanship, stealth, and the proper use of a silenced rifle or pistol.

''John'' is a cover name for one of my former army buddies who joined an intelligence group after we had been discharged. Recently resigned, ''John'' told me some of the uses of silenced weapons during his two years in Southeast Asia. He related how one of his men, a Vietnamese operative, used the Agency's assassination special in a hush-hush mission in North Vietnam.

''Our agent, a real sharp-shooter, picked off a North Vietnamese People's Mobilization Minister right in a public park in Hanoi in the Fall of 1969. No one even looked up, he told us. They thought this fella had just dropped over from a heart attack,'' ''John'' said, proud of his Asian colleague's marksmanship and weapon.

The weapon in this case was a silenced, long-barrelled, clip-loaded, pistol designed for quiet, ''medium range'' assassination.

Consider the case of Captain Robert Marasco, too. Some time ago, the Army tried to charge Captain Marasco, a former Green Beret officer, with murdering a man named Chuyen, supposedly an agent of the South Vietnamese government. According to official testimony, the man was a triple agent, and Marasco had been tersely ordered by the CIA to ''eliminate'' him with ''with extreme prejudice,'' which is CIA jargon for a no-nonsense execution.

Captain Marasco told how the prisoner was heavily drugged with morphine to make the execution as ''humane'' as possible. Then, as the Captain related, the Vietnamese was killed with two shots in the head from a silenced .22 automatic. The body was piled into a heavily weighted mail sack and dumped overboard into several hundred feet of the shark-infested South China Sea.

Unhappily for the CIA, the cover on that killing was blown. Yet, there are many other cases that don't come up from the murk in that dirty war.

Not all of the dirty work by silencer is of the cloak and dagger genre, though. Some of it involves highly skilled marksmen working as clandestine snipers. I talked to a former Marine Expert rifleman who had been a sniper in Vietnam. He told me the teams used to settle down in an ambush prior to sunrise. In all cases, a patrol took the team out, situated it, then left men with the sniper team to ''ride shotgun.''

''The best one we ever had was when some big officer, and this cat was obviously the man from up North, came to look over local turf. ZAP! One shot right in the head!! Not too bad,'' was this ex-sniper's colorful descriptive account of his personally zapping a high-ranking enemy officer.

''There were people within 100 or so meters of this guy, and no one looked up until he keeled over,'' the shooter added.

Another incident had the amusing touch of Hollywood. A Viet Cong propaganda unit set up loudspeakers throughout a jungle area and were harrassing our troops with daily propaganda lectures. According to the former GI who told me this story, they would not have been annoyed had the broadcast been musical, but it was a political propaganda lecture. Gripes were heard and someone authorized a volunteer patrol to accompany a sniper team to put the VC propagandist off the air. My informant was a rifleman on that ''pest patrol.'' The sniper carried an accurized M14 with scope and silencer.

The patrol finally located the source of the broadcasts nearly two miles beyond their own perimeter. It took them four hours to locate the broadcast area, but only 15 seconds to put it off the air permanently.

''The guy with the scoped rifle just bellied up on the ridge and the gun went 'click-pfff' twice and about 300 meters away, the guy at the mike and his stooge beside him keeled over,'' my informant told me, and added that his unit was not bothered by propaganda broadcasts again.

Sometimes, though, the missions are darker and more sinister. Although documented information is sketchy, at best, our side uses groups of counter-terrorist, killer teams in Indochina. Called Phoenix teams, they use a variety of silenced weapons and methods to spread death and terror among Communist military cadre and political leaders in South Vietnam, and in the North as well. These teams have also operated in Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. Under the guidance and leadership of CIA and Special Forces personnel, the operations of these groups are highly classified. But, bits and peices of information are available.

The early inklings of the philosophy behind the ''Phoenix Teams'' were suggested by Presidential Advisor McGeorge Bundy in February 1965. In a memo classified ''Top Secret,'' Bundy advocated ''tit-for-tat retribution'' against Viet Cong and North Vietnamese terrorist and assassination attacks. Of course, we were already engaged in these activities, on the sly. However, Bundy wanted them intensified. The CIA also sent the President a memo asking for more ''black'' activity, and requested ''hardline'' counter-terror orders.

After noting the Bundy and CIA messages, President Lyndon Johnson approved stepped-up activities in the black arts of secret warfare, i.e., he turned loose the CIA, the Special Forces, and their allies in Cambodia, Laos, South Vietnam.

First authorized by Gen. Creighton Abrams in 1968, these killer teams have accounted for many enemy agents who are now dead without trial. Of course, as many, many U.S. officers have said, the war-weary and vindictive officer corps in South Vietnam has not been too careful to keep the names of

personal and political enemies off the Phoenix teams' ''rub-out'' list. However, to the credit of the U.S. officers, they have worked long and hard to keep this covert program from becoming as much of a political-personal bloodbath as it could. However, the Phoenix operation is only part of our secret, dirty war.

Plans for the secret activities in Vietnam were settled in 1963, when Marine General Victor H. Krulak of the Joint Chiefs of Staff set up a program of secret and dirty warfare for Indochina, including commando raids, air drops of sabotage and assassination teams, plus infiltration of enemy areas by sea. During the Spring of 1964, Admiral U.S. Grant Sharpe, Commander of U.S. Pacific Forces called for improving ''Operation Hardnose,'' a classified clandestine operation of sabotage and espionage into Laos. Thus, the ''34A Operations'' (code name) began in the summer of 1964.

In early action, an infiltration team of Special Forces officers leading Vietnamese commandos and CIA advisor blew the Route 1 bridge in Vietnam, temporarily cutting the Ho Chi Minh trail for the first time. Guarded by a fire support team, the commandos and their leaders put the structure down easily. Field reports indicate the bridge's security forces were eliminated by fire from silencer-equipped firearms, some of which were modified M3A1 submachine guns — WWII retreads.

''My unit had the silenced guns and we really chopped up the security personnel,'' a former Air Force officer 'on loan' for special missions at the time related to me. ''Firing semi-auto with noise suppressors, we had their people running in circles. They couldn't tell who was shooting or where from . . . no one even thought to go after our people setting the charges on the bridge.''

Later that month, another demolition team hit a section of the Hanoi-Vinh railroad. Landed by rubber rafts from river patrol craft, the demolition units were supported by two South Vietnamese Marine squads, members of which had silenced M16 rifles.

One of the men on that raid, a former Navy SEAL team member, described the raid, ''It was quiet and easy. The South Vietnamese people had these silenced rifles and just zip-zapped the bad guys before we got there. There wasn't a damn sound. We saw 6 or 7 of their people, (North Vietnamese) dead, lying there with bloody bullet holes. We stayed low until our officer told us to move into the area and wreck the switching stuff with charges. It was kinda erie, them dying that way, I imagine.''

Then, late in October, unmarked aircraft from Air America, the CIA's own private airline, dropped two parachute teams of American agents and Asian nationals near Hanoi. One team was to blow a bridge, while the other was to set up a system of ambushes of ranking enemy officers and political cadre. Silenced weapons played a major part in these missions, particularly the latter operations. There were at least two air drops of supplies to these teams before they were airlifted out. Hanoi protested ''murder'' to the world press, and we denied everything.

These raids continued, despite administration denials that American

troops have been going ''over the fence'' into Cambodia and Laos since our withdrawal in June of 1970. Ambush teams of U.S. Special Forces troops and South Vietnamese Rangers continued raids into both countries until May 1 of 1972. These patrols were on assassination, sniping, and ambush missions, using a variety of silenced weapons. These raids have been made by ''mercenaries,'' i.e., U.S. Special Forces personnel in civilian clothing with fake ID cards and foreign weapons. These raids began again shortly after the massive Communist offensive in early 1972.

A Special Forces NCO, now back in the States, described a typical mission, suggesting that much of the time they simply went ''hunting.''

''Sometimes you'd get an assigned convoy or political target, but most of the time our patrols just went looking,'' he told me. ''A couple of the boys had fancy ordnance (usually a modified M14 with silencer), and a couple had the old Sten with a silencer tube stuck on the barrel,'' he added.

Early in 1970, these people were asked to combat test several U.S. Army silencer-equipped guns on these missions. This led to a scowling, bad memory evaluation by the sergeant, who added, ''Christ, one of them damn things didn't work at all. There we were, being all quiet and sneaky and our hot-shot man got this M16 with some Army-built silencer on the end and was gonna silently zip over a couple end men on a VC column. Geezus, you never heard such a racket when he cut loose . . damn silencer blew right off the end of the gun,too.''

Following some other cursing and muttering, the veteran told me that the later model silencers worked very well on the M16.

''The good ones were the Sionics' units,'' he added.

According to Peter Arnett, the Associated Press's veteran Vietnam correspondent, silencers have been a secretive, but useful and specialized tool of the Indochina campaign for sometime now. Arnett, an 8-year observor of the War, told me that he saw snipers of the U.S. Marine 9th Division use silenced weapons, particularly the M14 with a Sionics silencer, in various operations.

''The M14 with that Sionics tube on it is good,'' a Marine officer related. ''We used it at night with a flash hider and from 25 or 30 meters out you couldn't hear or see a thing . . it shot the hell out of Charlie.''

The Marines had revived the art of sniping in Vietnam as early as 1965, when the 3rd Marine Division had 92 marksmen equipped with the silenced Winchester Model 70 rifle.

''Silencers,'' Arnett remarked, ''are part of the war tools that no one talks much about because so few people see them in use. They're a low visibility part of that secret war that is so common in that area.''

Arnett also confirmed the relatively active role of silencer-equipped small arms used by the Navy SEAL teams in Vietnam.

The Navy's SEAL teams use a silencer-equipped military version of the Smith and Wesson Model 39 pistol as their issue sidearm. The silenced weapon is a modification of the standard Smith and Wesson M39 using a screw-on silencer developed by a civilian employee of the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Washington.

In addition to the domestic weapons, silencer-equipped foreign weapons sometimes surface in the hands of U.S. personnel. For example, a silencer-equipped version of that aged WWII mainstay — the British Sten submachine gun — is still a popular weapon among special mission people. The Sten, although no longer a standard weapon in its own country, is used daily in Indochina by a variety of people.

However, Britain's latest contribution is the L34A1, a silenced version of the Sterling, with the barrel being covered by a silencer casing which is sometimes topped by a scope. It has been used by our Special Forces and by U.S. Navy SEAL teams.

A friend of mine, while on his second tour of Vietnam duty, ran into an Army officer with a Swedish "K" submachine gun fitted with a very large silencer. The unit had originally been issued to a Navy SEAL team.

"It was a most effective weapon," the officer later told me. "The sound was very effectively suppressed . . .about like a very mild hand clap (probably mechanical noise), and there was no apparent loss of performance."

According to the officer, a CIA spook found out about his weapon and it was confiscated — through channels, of course. You could easily conclude that there is a strong undercurrent of dislike between the CIA and the professional military in Indochina. But, that's a topic for a work of slightly larger volume!

Obviously, there is silent, quick death being dealt in this vast, ghastly war that has sprawled across Indochina. And, from our side, this military use of silent death has been most effective.

For example, one of the best sniper rigs in Vietnam is the XM21 rifle with telescopic sight and Military Armament Corporation's silencer. This unit was first put together in the late 60's by Mitchell WerBell's Military Armament Corporation (MAC) people, (they also make the Sionics silencers) working with Army personnel. After domestic testing, it found its way to Southeast Asia, joining the M14 sniper rifle fitted with scope and MAC's silencer, making a tandem team of super, quiet killers. And, they're getting results, too.

WerBell is quoted in Atlanta magazine as saying that one model of his company's silencers on Army sniper rifles had, "killed 1900 V.C. in six months. Those V.C. took only 1.3 rounds per kill. Twenty-seven cents apiece they cost Uncle Sam. That's the greatest cost effectiveness the Army's ever known. And there hasn't been a single American casuality."

If you are interested in bookkeeping, compare WerBell's figure to the statistics released during 1971 Congressional hearings, when it was learned that an average of 50,000 rounds of ammunition are expended for each enemy kill in Vietnam. If one considers the cost of M16 ammunition, that's $2300 per kill! WerBell's way costs 27 cents.

Then there is the evening show, whose main feature is xenon lighting. This adventure in technology is really a step from science fiction. Xenon lighting has the facility to secretly "light up" an ambush area nearly 1500 meters from the light source. Using "pink" or xenon light generated from

special trucks, 9th Infantry Division snipers have been able to situate at distances up to 300 meters from road crossings which are fully illuminated in the special scopes the sniper have on their rifles.

When Viet Cong tried to cross the road, thinking they were in total darkness, the snipers easily shot them using Match-Grade M14 rifles equipped with MAC silencers. For weeks, the enemy never understood this silent death that zipped out of the darkness to kill them.

Later, during night operations at a 9th Division Base Camp, activities were halted by an enemy sniper. Shutting down all outside illumination, the Commander ordered the invisible xenon searchlights turned on and posted silenced countersnipers. The sniper was located in a tree 750 yards away. A single shot killed him! The distance was paced and the kill confirmed. The regular lights went back on. The sniping ended.

As 1972 stumbled toward a national election and President Nixon spoke with a dove-tailed tongue, the War sputtered, fired with the Communist's spring offensive, and massive bombing took over as the GIs moved out of Vietnam. Yet, undercover warfare continued, off the front page and off the tv screen.

For example, late in April of that year, several former Marine officers told of secret training for a 400 man invasion mission into North Vietnam. Although the Pentagon initially issued vigorous denials, the story was later substantiated. I interviewed one of the officer-trainees for that mission, and he told me of their instructions in the professional use of silenced weapons.

"We qualified with silenced M14 rifles, the Smith and Wesson pistols and a British submachine gun," he told me. "We also had training with night operations, including silenced shooting with a Starlite scope."

Three former Marine officers, John Webster, James Roark and William Grant, confirmed the invasion story.

Then, almost as an unplanned follow-up, one of the interesting freelance efforts of the War took place the following week, when Reverend Paul Lindstrom told a Saigon press conference that a force of 118 men — Vietnam veterans, plus 13 mercenaries from Belgium, Britain and France — was ready to make independent raids into smaller North Vietnamese prison camps to free allied prisoners.

Calling his unit The Douglas MacArthur Brigade, Rev. Lindstrom told U.S. military officials and reporters that, "We are issuing an ultimatum to Mr. Nixon to get our prisoners out of the North . . . or we will get the job done."

The unit's commander, reportedly a retired Belgian General Officer, said in a written report that the brigade had silenced British and American weapons and the experts who knew how to use them.

Meanwhile, as U.S. political leaders were wishing Vietnam would simply go away, our British friends were building a Vietnam all their own in Northern Ireland. When the British troops moved into that country in March of 1972, it was the end of 50 years of semi-autonomous rule for Ulster. It was now all-out guerrilla warfare, with the Irish Republican Army against all es-

tablished authority. The fighting there represents sectarian violence of a type that the rest of the civilian world left behind after the Counter-Reformation. The war in Northern Ireland is one of bombs, snipers and ambush.

According to British officials, all the silenced sniping is being done by the IRA. And, trying to trace how the IRA gets its illegal weapons is a tough job. It is no longer easy for them to merely rob British arsenals for their weapons. Now, they rely mainly on smugglers and other gunrunners, paying for the goods with money raised abroad. Most of the arms came from Czechoslovakia. But, there are other suppliers.

In October of 1971, Irish customs officials seized six suitcases containing silenced arms, regular weapons and explosives bound for the IRA. The smuggler was an American IRA sympathizer who tried to carry his arsenal to Ireland on the Queen Elizabeth II.

Most of the support from the U.S., though, is financial. ''About 90 percent of the IRA's money for guns comes from Irish-American citizens in New York, Boston, and other large U.S. cities,'' one European source recently announced.

According to NEWSWEEK's Angus Deming, one American citizen opened a secret bank account in Geneva for IRA weapons purchases. And, what are they buying in silenced weapons?

According to Lt. Col. P. L. Crosby of the Northern Ireland HQ, a .22 caliber Savage rifle Model 3B fitted with a Parker-Hale sound moderator (silencer) was confiscated by British troops in November of 1971. A house search in Belfast in January of 1972 turned up four Unique silencers for .303 Enfield rifles. In April, 1972, another Unique silencer was taken from an Ira suspect captured in Belfast. A Steyr rifle with the barrel threaded to take that silencer was later found in the man's room.

''We have also turned up a great many homemade silencers, which aren't as effective as the modified Parker-Hale moderators, but they are just as deadly,'' Lt. Col Crosby wrote me.

This was proved in Newry early in March, 1972, when a sniper shot a British sentry with a silenced .22 rifle. Witnesses heard no shot, only a slight crack as the British trooper crumpled mortally wounded. Then, in April, a small group of IRA raiders opened the battle by wounding several soldiers with a silenced submachine gun. One witness, a World War II veteran, identified the weapon as a Sten Mk IIS.

Earlier that spring, silenced shots had startled British bomb squads hunting hidden gelignite explosives in Ulster. Although no one was hit, the soldiers were shaken by the ''bullets that came flying silently, like bloody bees zipping by.''

One of my friends visited Ireland late in 1969, interviewing IRA people and members of the Ulster Defence League, a violently anti-IRA group. He wrote me that the UDL had at that time 20 Parker-Hale silencers. Another of their silencers, a homemade model, seemed quite interesting, as it was a combination of the Maxim-type muffler and the French silencer. The normal spacers (of the Maxim-Parker-Hale type) were separated by springs (as in the

French silencer). The combination made this a more effective silencer than the commercial ones the group had.

Of course, silencers can be literally home grown, as well. For years, Irish poachers have been using the ''spud silencer.'' Don't laugh — it works. One jams a large potato over the muzzle of a gun, secures it with a rubber band and blasts away— once. Granted, it is far from perfect and does little to further the state of the art. But, it is home grown, legal, ubiquitous, and quite deadly. I have no proof that the ''spud silencer'' has been used in IRA combat, but one source did write me that several have been used in street fighting at night. Bill Tudhope, a friend of one of my sources, added his documentation of the ''spud silencer,'' saying he'd used it as a poaching weapon as a youngster in England. He also added that Irish poachers and IRA terrorists still use them.

Whether a silenced weapon is commercial, homemade, or home grown, its role in war is to kill quietly and secretly. I think we've had adequate documentation of that fact throughout the wars of this century. Obviously, a little bit of silence goes a long, long way in dirty warfare. Unhappily, the wrong kind of people in the United States have learned that fact.

CHAPTER 5
SILENCERS IN OUR DOMESTIC WAR

"Assassinating a man's not all that hard," is how the former Special Forces sniper who's been unemployed since returning from Nam explained his old job to me.

"Did you ever think of putting your military skill to work in civilian life?" I said kiddingly.

His face sharpened; he snapped, "That isn't funny. One of the guys I knew over there is doing just that." As an afterthought, he added, ". . . for the Mob!"

Interested, I got a reference to this other young ex-sniper who billed himself as a hit man, and I started tracking down this story of professional killers.

If you think the Mob still greases its human targets with a sawed-off shotgun or sends gunmen skidding around a corner in a sedan, its windows roaring with tommy gun fire, you've been watching too much television. Thirty years ago, they used to slaughter people that way. Today, according to both the Mob gunmen and the Federal agents whose job is putting these professional killers out of business, that type of noisy killing is showboat stuff for amateurs and psychos.

As innocent bystanders got tired ducking buckshot and errant submachine rounds, a perverted sense of public relations took hold in organized crime. The Hollywood (nee Chicago) strafing gave way to a professional style. A police report during the so-called Gallo-Profaci gang war in Brooklyn during the 1960s is instructive.

After a shooting in which several members of a rival gang were hit, police raided one of the Gallo hideouts. After a polite discussion with the "perfectly innocent" nine men in the apartment, one of the detectives happened to notice a loose board in a closet — which led to a false floor, under which were several weapons and their silencers. Then, there was the explanation of Albert "Kid Blast" Gallo when another City Detective asked him about the guns and their silencers:

"Gee," said Gallo with a smile and a shrug, "the former occupants of this apartment must have been some kind of malefactors."

If the name Gallo rings a bell, it's because it was recently back in the newspapers — gangland style — as a gunman shot Joe Gallo, Albert's older brother, in a New York restaurant early in April of 1972. It was an unsilenced hit, and started a small war that led to 12 deaths within a ten day period. There were several reasons given for 1972's flurry of Mob assassinations, ranging from revenge for the alleged Gallo-instituted "hit" on Joe Columbo, through the fact that Gallo had gone soft on blacks during his years in prison (Columbo's assailant was black), to Victor Riesel's comment that it was simply a case of the old Dons using murder to show that they were still in control of the Mob and its rebels.

After all, the same thing happened before when Lucky Luciano killed about 65 gangsters over 40 years ago to demonstrate who was boss of the Mob. Several of those killings were documented as being with silenced weapons, while only one of the shootings in the current squabble was from a silenced gun.

By the middle of the last decade though silencers had become a common and deadly fact of organized crime, as the Mob went Big League in its "housecleaning." According to one younger Mob Leader, the heavy-duty trigger man with his Thompson submachine gun has been replaced by a trained (often by the U.S. military) killer who is equipped with the best in silenced weapons and the skills to use them.

An elderly Mob familyman quietly told me about one of the contracts he heard discussed at a meeting prior to his retirement in 1969. It seems the semi-trusted manager of a large gambling casino was somehow skimming the profits, but in such a clever way that auditors couldn't catch him.

"We knew he was stealing though," my host told me. "So, the vote was that he would have to go. The contract was put out and quietly completed."

I had to ask. "You had him killed without proof?"

"We asked him about the money. He knew we were checking on him. He almost laughed at us, and denied everything — swore he wasn't hitting the till. Hell, he way lying," was the flushed reply.

The details of the hit involved assassination with a silenced small calibre pistol, with an apparent robbery as the cover motive. The victim was shot early in the morning as he left the casino.

"Our man emptied a clip into the mark's chest, using a silenced pistol. He rifled the manager's pockets and took his wallet. They told me there were people within 100 feet of the parking lot who never even looked up at the muffled shooting. Our hit man was clean. It's on the books as an unsolved robbery."

"Oh, I figure the police know what happened, and they also know that by now they can't hang it on us, so the robbery thing gives them a good out, too," he explained with a funny chuckle.

These silencer users aren't backyard heist artists. They're professional killers — Mob owned hit men of freelance murderers with skills and silenced weapons for lease. Their job speciality: KILL QUIETLY!

One of these professional gunmen was arrested in a Texas motel room recently, following an informer's tip that the assassin was in town. Law enforcement people entered the room. The gunmen dove for his bed and came up with an automatic pistol.

"Two of us pushed him down before he could fire the pistol," one of the policemen told reporters later.

A routine search of the room turned up several other guns, including a scoped .22 magnum rifle with a beautifully engineered silencer.

"That thing was the rival of some of the commercial stuff that's being used by the military," a federal agent later testified.

With the War in Southeast Asia wandering to a close, the methods, weapons, and men trained to do this quiet killing are being shipped home. Some are filtering into the underworld. According to Robert Scroggie, weapon's expert for the Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Division of the Treasury

Department (ATFD) the amount of silenced murder attempts by the Mob is rising dramatically.

"We had more than three times the number of silencer cases last year as we had the year before, and this year it will probably go higher," Mr. Scroggie told me.

"Almost all these silencer cases," Mr. Scroggie adds, "involve what you, me, almost anyone — would class as the professional criminal. These are mob hit men and freelance killers on a contract."

Another ATFD official, Warren H. McConnell, calls silencers "a deadly, sneaky device intended for only one thing — a silently sinister death for some person. They're hardly the glamorous things the TV networks show criminals using."

To the men of the ATFD, the days are gone for the innocent shooting gallery silencer, the Maxim silencer for quietly eliminating unwanted garden pests from the backyard, or for quietly shooting game without disturbing the forest quiet. Today, possession of a silencer-equipped firearm is very serious business.

"I think it is fairly evident who we're after," commented Mr. McConnell, a thoroughly likeable chap. "Out job is to go after the big boys — the Mob. Those are the ones we want — the black market weapons' peddler, the hit men, plus the people who run the illegal gun and silencer factories."

Enforcing laws against professional killers is not an easy or safe job. An ATFD spokesman told me, "It's quite an experience to go after an armed pro whose job is to kill. He's cunning and absolutely murderous. Heck, he's got nothing to lose when he takes you on, and he doesn't care about innocent bystanders. It's rough on our men's families, too."

One case featured the arrest of an armed killer with a record of murderous assaults. He was armed and ready to shoot in a crowded public building.

"He was prepared to carry out his assignment, hoping his silenced gun would allow him to beat the confusion . . . we had to act," the Federal man in charge said.

In another raid, two local police did not know a suspect had fired at them twice — missing at point blank range — until the bullet holes were spotted in the rooming house wall after the arrest.

"He had a silenced Star (a Spanish pistol) and apparently chopped off two shots at us," one of the officers related. "In the confusion of a detective firing and wounding the suspect and our tackling and disarming him, we didn't notice a thing. No one even heard his gun fire."

Later, obversation and evidence indicated the suspect had indeed fired his silenced pistol at the officers. The man involved had previously been picked up on suspicion of murder in an earlier armed assault case. He had been released for lack of evidence.

"This time, we got him with that quiet little toy of his," was the laconic summary of the case by an officer.

In two other recent cases, ATFD agents risked their lives to arrest hit men armed with silenced pistols. One case was in Florida, and the gun was a

Spanish Unique with the barrel out about an inch and a half from the receiver. Again, the silencer was a homemade model that screwed onto the end of that barrel. Constructed of aluminum, the silencer was made up of a series of discs of rubberized material, steel washers, cork, and some composition material. It was far from perfect and would have eventually blown up from being out of alignment. But, it was also a quietly lethal killer.

The other case involved a Beretta .380 pistol equipped with a very well engineered silencer fabricated in some illegal shop. The unit was confiscated in Atlanta.

"It was as good a job as the commercial designers are turning out," was the evaluation of one firearms' expert who saw the unit.

He continued, "Some of these illegal silencers are machined by people who know what they're doing. The finish is clean, smooth, and professionally blued. Testing indicates a range of 10 to 25 decibels in sound loss for some of these factory-fabricated sound silencers, which is a damn effective unit."

Government agents recently busted a small, illegal silencer factory in the South — a well-defined operation that was selling very competently finished units to criminals. Of course, it's not totally illegal to make silencers — just a matter of a fee payment and a major problem of who is doing it and why.

In terms of price, one Texas firm, X-Ploraco, Ltd., manufactures legal silencers for small arms ranging from .22 to .45 calibre. They custom build to fit each particular gun, and prices range from $75 for a new silencer to fit a .22 pistol to $150 for a silencer for the Smith and Wesson M76 submachine gun. In addition, they sell weapons with the silencers built right on the end, e.g., a Ruger .22 auto is $125; a High Standard .22 calibre auto is also $125; while the Ingram M10 submachine gun with silencer sells for $270. They stress that all sales are subject to ATFD approval, of course.

These civilian silencers are as effective in reducing noise as their military counterparts. Unfortunately, so are some of the illegal silencers. For example, that homemade silencer taken with the Unique pistol was tesed with an electronic device in Washington, which showed it lowered the sound of the report by 27 decibels. According to ordnance expert Don Thomas of Military Armament Corporation, the leading legal producers of silencers, a person can hook a silencer with a 20 decibel drop level on a pistol, and fire it in an average-sized living room with the television set turned to normal volume. A person in the next room would not hear the shot.

Since payment of a tax and, of course, ATFD approval for silencer ownership is necessary, and domestic enforcement is tough, criminals usually turn to other sources for silencers.

Some of the illegal silencers are imported from countries in which their sale and use is legal, although supposedly carefully controlled. In England, the Parker-Hale moderators are legal, as are LeFebvre sound moderators in France and Gold Spot Silencers in Australia, for example. These silencers are legally purchased in these countries then illegally imported into this country.

"The price these illegal silencers bring represents the real economy of supply and demand," an official of the U.S. Customs Service told me. "A le-

gal silencer sells for the equivalent of between $8 and $12 in Europe, while over here that same silencer starts at $300."

The price will go as high as the traffic will bear. An ATFD agent told me than an effective homemade silencer that's been proved "on the job" can bring as high as $700.

I wondered if the bulldoggedness of the ATFD agents wasn't making the use of silencer technology too costly to the Mob. That's where "Len" came into the story.

Len is my name for a Mob "purchasing agent" who has as one of his responsibilities the hiring of freelance firepower — euphemistically put on the books as "labor relations consultant." A tall, smiling man who has the look of a rough-cut junior executive who isn't quite used to his business image, Len had two years of college prior to joining the "Family Firm." He's 34 years old.

"Why lie to you? Hell, after Talese and Puzo, what's to hide?" Len was quite candid. "Sure, our boys are using the silenced weapons on hits. Look, we don't want the public stirred up about shooting down people in the streets."

Obviously proud of technology, Len told me about one of his favorite contract men.

"Allen is one guy with the best training there is — Uncle Sam! Darn right, he was in Vietnam — a sniper, and he worked with the silenced rifles, too. Yeah, he was in a lot of combat — told me he used it to sharpen up his civilian job skills . . . that's gotta be funny, right?" Len roared at the Irony of Uncle Sam training killers on one hand and trying to catch them with the other.

One of Allen's civilian assignments was to eliminate the testimony of a drug dealer who'd been offered the deal of getting busted and put in jail to rot, or else to play patsy for the police and lead the way to the big boys. Len said the man wasn't trustworthy to anyone.

"He cheated his dealers, us, and would have figured a way to screw the Narcs, too. So, we had our man zap him," Len announced quite easily.

Len said he wasn't going to tell me how the hit was made, because this one was only a year old, and "they're still chasing around after how we did it."

Not all the silent killing is the work of mob gunmen, however. The militant terrorists of both wild-eyed Left and Right are also gathering silencer-equipped weapons for their particular revolutionary missions. I talked to one of these strange extremists, a self-styled Colonel who heads a vigilante group in Eastern Ohio.

"One of our men has an original, mint condition .30 caliber Maxim silencer that's been used only a few times in exercises by our people here," Col. Weir, a 50 year-old former Army career NCO, told me. "Our ordnance people put this silencer on a scoped '03 Springfield . . . It's a deadly and great unit."

The specific plans for this silenced rifle were "classified" by the Colonel

who would not let me see the weapon or talk to any of his people. I saw no "troopers," just Weir. However, he did tell me the silenced gun would be used this summer, should any of those "radical, leftist animals go messing our city."

Burly, tough-spoken Bradley Morris is an unusual criminologist — a former city cop, private detective, and a man with an M.S. degree in Sociology. He claims the day of the big riots are over. Morris suggests, "The militants are pulling back into classic guerrilla warfare — bombings, kidnappings, and sniping."

A consultant to several police departments, Morris believes a militant with a gun is more dangerous than a Mob hit man. "The militant doesn't usually care who or how many he hits, while the Mob man hits only his target." With a shrug, he added, "Usually!"

Whatever the theories, according to Morris, both violent extremes of the political spectrum are arming with automatic weapons and silencer-equipped weapons. There are several sources involved.

A number of silencer-equipped weapons have been stolen from military depots and are turning up in the blackmarkets all over the country. For instance, during all of 1970, 191 military weapons were stolen, while during just the first six months of 1971, 201 weapons were illegally lost. According to one Army security officer the final figure for that year was close to 700 weapons, some of which are either equipped with silencers or adapted for silencer use. The figure will go higher for 1972, as no new security measures are operable. According to California's deputy attorney general, Charles O'Brien, recent thefts from U.S. Army shipments in Oakland and in Port Chicago, California, contained hundreds of weapons, some automatic and some silencer-equipped.

In 1970, a silencer-equipped M3A1 submachine gun was found at the scene of a shootout between Oakland police and a group of militants identified by newsmen as Black Panthers. That weapon was one of a group which had been stolen from an Army storage depot in San Francisco.

Another group, whose radical designs were not openly apparent, involved five eastern Pennsylvania men who were arrested in February of 1972 by ATFD agents from Philadelphia. The quintet had been infiltrated and their plot to destroy public utility companies in the Lehigh River Valley area was wetted down before it could explode. Among the armament the men had was a selection of silenced firearms they intended to use to "implement terror," as one arrest report noted.

Early in 1971, a silencer-equipped M14 was reported missing from Ft. Bragg. That summer, customs checks turned up several M14 silencers, a silencer unit for the modified M16A1, coming in illegally from Vietnam. A Military Police investigator added that several silenced rifles, two silenced submachine guns, as well as a silenced High Standard HD pistol were stolen in Europe last year.

Other silenced weapons are being manufactured in private workshops, mini-factories, and in "moonlighted" machine shops by a small minority of

people who want to silence other people. According to ATFD's Warren McConnell, "It doesn't matter who has the silenced gun — leftist or rightest — the intended use is heinous murder. The ATFD now has a simple device, a portable test-bed firing unit, designed by Robert Scroggie which measures the difference between a silenced and an unsilenced shot.

The basic instrument is a bed device which accomodates a gun receiver alone or a receiver with a silencer. About 18 inches down range is a "target of composition board and paper, backed up by enough strong steel panel that will take a full-on .45 ball cartridge without as much as a dent."

This ingeniously simple device is totally self-contained and is portable so that it may be taken to a courtroom for on-the-spot demonstrations of evidence.

"The whole thing fits into a carrying case one man can handle," Mr. Scroggie explained. "All we need is the bed, backstop, receivers for several different caliber silencers, the audio meter, cables, and a microphone. It's simple, neat, very fair and very legal.

The whole idea is simple and honest," added Mr. Scroggie. "We measure the sound of a control round fired through our test receiver. Then, we attach the silencer to that receiver and run the same test. There are no games or gimmicks — the jury can read the results directly from a large, simple dial on the meter. It is simple and there are no outside variables . . . it's a pure measure of silencer effectiveness."

Of course, Mr. Scroggie was quick to add that *intent* was also proof in deciding a case for carry-through to court. "There was one case where a would-be designer for the mob built a funnel-shaped silencer for a hit job. The end result was an amplification of noise. "It worked like a megaphone, I guess. Anyway, the unit tested louder in the silenced mode than it did without the silencer," he added.

However, another source felt this silencer might have been designed for special, close-up killing in which the funnel shape would "fan" the blast against the victim's body, which would actually tend to muffle the whole blast and increase the shock.

The Scroggie device has shown that most of the better illegal silencers have an average reduction of about 14 to 23 decibel rating. This compares fairly favorably with the expertly produced military silencers.

The drop in decibels for these freelanced silencers ranges from 2 to 30 decibels. One of the better ones, in terms of noise reduction, was a long, thin, stainless steel silencer screwed to the end of a .32 calibre Walther PP. This illegal silencer was about a foot long and about ¾ inch in diameter. In a unique attempt to disguise the fact that the pistol was a silencer-ready weapon, the mob gunsmith had the barrel threaded on the *inside* of the bore. This solved the problem of not having a threaded, extra long barrel poking out of the end of the small automatic.

Most of these bootleg silencers are based on Hiram P. Maxim's 1909 baffle design because it is the best known and most successful. The major problem of these fabricated silencers is improper alignment between the bore and

the exit areas of the silencer. One of the confiscated gangster units had large particles of four bullets lodged in its final chambers due to being out of alignment. However, according to an ATFD investigator, "enough of the slugs got out the hole in the end to do what the killer set out to do."

Apparently, though enough of these illegal, silent killers are working effectively, so that more are being used. This bothers the ATFD people.

"Between the militants sniping at police and at each other, and the Mob getting more sophisticated about silenced assassination, we're in for a rough, dangerous haul with silencers," one of their field agents told me.

Len saw it another way. "You take advantage of technology in any business." Where it really matters is what side of the gun you're on! Now *that* is something to think about, which is what a lot of police officers are doing these days. Consider this case that made headlines in 1972.

The dead policeman was 25; married with two kids. Other officers said he was a humane and intelligent man. Answering a call in a domestic quarrel, he and his partner had driven into a dark, unfriendly deep-city neighborhood. The young officer had just closed the cruiser door when the first bullet caught him high in the chest. A second slug hit him lower. The third shot spun his partner around. The critically wounded partner called for help, mumbling about a sniper.

The threat of police assassination is smouldering under the cauldron of hate that marks the extremist groups who resort to murderous violence to gain recognition for their ideologies. As this anti-authority warfare flares across urban America, the sinister role of the sniper grows with increasing frequency. The killer shooting at police, firemen, soldiers, civic leaders, and citizens is a dangerous person who must be dealt with effectively, efficiently, and quietly.

Yet, in responding to a sniper situation, return gunfire can cause crowd panic and set off further acts of violence, making the elimination of a sniper or terrorist particularly difficult. From the experience of sniper war in Asia, plus years of domestic dealing with hidden ambushers, a new concept for handling this situation has evolved. It's known as countersniping and it had proved highly effective.

Countersniping is the effective neutralization and control of a hostile force firing from cover and concealment. As such, a trained countersniper has several options open. He can dissuade a sniper from further firing by several well-placed shots in his very near vicinity. Or, he may immobilize the firer by wounding him. Finally, should it be deemed absolutely necessary, a well-placed killing shot can be delivered by the countersniper.

Generally, countersnipers operate as a team, with one partner handling the rifle while other provides security, communication, and the stablizing effect on the countersniper's morale that he is not all alone in this dangerous situation.

Despite the psychology of the matter, countersniping is not a classic science. Above all, the countersniper is a hunter and must use the tricks of his trade to make a hit on his first shot! Time is often critical and the lives of de-

cent humans are usually at stake in a countersniper mission. Thus, countersniping requires specialized training. Currently, there are two major companies who offer this specialized training and equipment: North American Arms Company in Florida; and Security Arms Company (SACO) of Arlington, Virginia and Atlanta, Georgia.

The most comprehensive countersniper program is that offered by retired Army Colonel John S. Wood's SACO, an organization designed to meet the requests and needs of law enforcement agencies whose communities have been beset by civil disturbances and sniping these past few years.

"We provide," Col. Wood told me, "special on-site training in countersniper and general weapons employment and tactics right in the client's hometown."

As a brand new operation, the people of SACO are making a solid, fast impression in law enforcement. Following initial tests and programs in Georgia and Florida, SACO is busy gearing instructional programs for police agencies of varying sizes in California, Texas, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, plus continuing in Florida and Georgia.

SACO's basic operation is a cadre of former U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit personnel touring the country to custom train local law enforcement agency people in countersniping operations designed specifically to meet local needs. According to Col. Wood, the goal of the program is "train police countersniper teams to achieve a first-round strike capability 100 percent of the time, day and night, within a six inch circle at ranges up to 300 yards."

Describing the SACO philosophy, Col. Wood conjured the analogy of a surgeon performing with a scapel, "expert application of a very minimum use of force to treat a sickness with the very least disruption to surrounding healthy elements."

Had countersniping been with us just six years ago, mentally disturbed Charles Whitman might never have run up a score of 14 killed and 31 wounded from his sniping point on the top of a high tower at the University of Texas. In his testimony in 1966, Robert Miles of the Austin force said that officers just could not pin Whitman down with handguns and "had difficulty using rifles that just are not too accurate."

The need for the countersniper concept is a product of our time, involving the interface of fear, psychology, mob violence, and public relations in an urban law enforcement setting. In addition to problems which are psychological, environmental, professional, personal and public — there is a matter of weapons.

Based on experience, most experts agree that countersnipers rarely engage targets in urban areas at more than 300 yards. Thus, weapons' selection involves several factors. Obviously, accuracy is the most critical because of small, possibly obscured targets which may be near innocent bystanders. Other factors include ammunition, noise level, and recoil.

SACO offers a basic countersniper unit, complete with all accessories and training as a package deal for law enforcement and security agencies. Their rifle is built around the barrelled action of a Remington 700, whose action is fitted and glassbedded into a stock to provide absolute stability and to insure a first-round hit. It is available in either .223 or .308 caliber.

The scope is an auto ranging 3 x 9 variable power model, which eliminates the need for range estimation, as all the shooter does is bracket his target using a ballistic cam and the scope is automatically on target.

Because the noise factor is essential to countersniper operations, the SACO unit uses a Military Armaments Corporation silencer, which also adds to the accuracy of the unit by dampening barrel vibrations and allowing the propellant gases to be completely consumed before the bullet leaves the end of the silencer. In addition to the silencer, which completely eliminates muzzle flash and sound, a special subsonic round has been developed to make the entire operation virtually silent.

Thus SACO unit is guaranteed for one minute of angle (three inch groups at 300 yards) accuracy under any conditions. In initial police testing of this unit, every officer was within that grouping — exceptional accuracy for any rifle. In testing, SACO instructors have shot one half minute of angle accuracy at 300 yards.

The SACO system has been tested under combat conditions by U.S. Army snipers in Southeast Asia. Of course, one might expect this type of quality control since SACO's chief training officer is Robert Bayard, recently retired as the Colonel who commanded the U.S. Army Marksmanship Training Unit.

"I don't believe in law enforcement people shooting just for the sake of throwing lead around," is Col. Bayard's philosophy. "The use of a weapon by a policeman is very, very serious business involving the lives of other humans. It's a tremendous responsibility, and the trained policeman is going to do a far better and safer job when the emergency arises."

Thus, SACO's training goes way beyond the basic FBI and NRA firing programs favored by police departments for so many years. The SACO approach recognizes the human factor between sniper and countersniper, then superimposes into its training the mind-boggling distraction of crowd noise, a hostile environment, the presence of innocent bystanders, weather, time, and all the extra pressures that are likely to upset the countersniper's theoretical notion of simply shooting at a target.

"Yes, the FBI and NRA are fine as target shooting courses," one police chief said to me, "But, a sniper situation in our city just isn't the same as a bullseye hanging down range. That's why we like the SACO training."

Another countersniper unit, marketed by North American Arms Co. of Ft. Lauderdale, offers both an intermediate, silenced countersniper weapon and one for longer ranges. The short weapon is a modified Ruger 10 22 carbine with an auto-ranging scope sight and MAC silencer. Designed and modified by the experts at Military Armament Corporation, this unit is virtually noise and flash free. The only sound reported by users who've fired the weapon is the sound of the bullet impacting the target.

Their other weapon is also a Military Armament Corporation modifica-

tion, this time of a Remington Model 700. It comes with a silencer, auto-ranging scope sight, and is available in either .223 or .308. According to initial tests, reports an accuracy record of 97 percent first-round hits at 450 yard ranges.

However, the concept and the weapons of countersniping have an important variable — the human who pulls the trigger. This is the heart of countersniping and is also the major problem encountered when the theory is put into practice. According to the experience of the men of the Army's Marksmanship Training Unit, it is almost impossible to give generalized advice about countersniper situations because no two cases are exactly alike. These veterans suggest three universal criteria for a countersniper — (1) clear thinking before shooting; (2) common sense and good judgement; (3) absolute marksmanship.

If ambush killing is a symptom of society's ills, then countersniping is a sophisticated and effective specialist available to cure this disease permanently and save innocent lives. This means, then, that silencers have become part of our domestic warfare arsenal. What's next?

CHAPTER 6
SILENTLY YOURS .....

Although silencers are certainly not as common as missiles and other tools of modern war, some planners feel that these clandestine weapons will become more important as our world seems to be sliding away from the nuclear starting line and back to the dirty little wars like Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, the Middle East, and the domestic unrest that stretches from Northern Ireland through Argentina to the United States. Silencers are a major part of those types of war.

One man who probably knows more about the future of silencers than any other person is Mitchell Livingston WerBell III, former OSS Captain, advertising executive, public relations counselor, guerrilla fighter, military advisor, paramilitary expert, noise suppressor designer, builder, prime salesman — and former Chairman of the Board of Military Armament Corporation.

Son of a wealthy Russian officer, Mitchell WerBell III is, in the estimation of one firearms expert who knows him well, already ahead of Hiram Maxim in the hierarchy of silencer design history. WerBell has more than 25 different designs to his credit.

"WerBell is not only a creative genius, but he's a top salesman as well, because he's been 'there,' used his product and knows what it's all about," a business associate added.

An OSS officer during World War II, WerBell served behind Japanese lines in China, learning first hand lessons of guerrilla warfare and clandestine operations. After the war, he worked hard and successfully in advertising for awhile, then switched to public relations, founded his own PR firm, which then misted into the fuzzy world of international intrigue and diplomatic relations. WerBell found himself at home in the geopolitical, quasi-military affairs that orbit around the world's trouble spots.

Soon, Mitchell WerBell had gained a reputation as a solid, violently anti-communistic military advisor to nations on the U.S. State Department's "approved list." In addition, he was constantly tinkering with the small arms of warfare in his shop back in Atlanta. Away from his Atlanta shop, though, Mitchell WerBell was all over the globe as a military advisor . . . Cuba, Dominican Republic, Southeast Asia, etc.

By 1967, WerBell went into the weapons business on a fulltime basis, organizing his firm named Sionics, Inc. (Studies in Operational Negation of Insurgency and Counter Subversion). Then, in 1970, WerBell tied in with Quantum Ordnance Bankers, and Military Armaments Corporation became the new name for what had been Sionics, Inc.

WerBell has teamed with three of the best small arms designers in the world today, Maxwell G. Atchisson, John P. Foote, and Gordon B. Ingram. These men are veteran arms designers, each with many designs to his credit. Ingram is regarded as one of the best submachine gun designers of the Twentieth Century, as his Ingram M6, M10, and M11 are highly regarded guns in the arms field. Also, he has to his credit several assault rifle and light machine gun designs. Atchisson is widely known for his full-automatic weapon designs

which run from the heavy weapons field down to sub caliber training devices.

Atchisson's .22 Conversion for the AR-15 M16 Rifle is in production at the Military Armament Corp. factory in Marietta, Ga. This outstanding conversion unit can be used with or without a silencer. The MAC Atchisson .22 Conversion represents one of the most brilliant strokes of gun design in recent years. Max Atchisson has over 40 designs in the Ordnance field to his credit, including a .22 rifle that will revolutionize that market. He also developed the only successful fully automatic shotgun known to exist.

The assault rifles and light machine guns of John Foote are the last word in gun design. Simplicity, reliability, and ease of manufacture are the keynotes of his weapons. His assault rifles are the most outstanding designs to appear since the AK-47 and the M16. The Foote Light Machine Guns represent the greatest advances in machine gun design since the appearance of the MG-42 in Germany during WW II. The belt feed system of the Foote Machine Guns is one of the simplest and most reliable in the world.

It has been said that Foote and Atchisson are the John Brownings of tomorrow. Meanwhile, Gordon Ingram has designed two individual submachine weapons that are way ahead of their time in design, combining the firepower of a submachine gun with the weight, portability, and handling of a pistol. According to submachine gun expert Thomas B. Nelson, the Ingram systems are among the lightest, most compact weapons of their type to be offered on the world market.

Working with designers Atchisson, Foote, and Ingram, Military Armament Corporation put in four tough, closely guarded years developing and perfecting this system. The results of thus labor should, hopefully, revolutionize the free world's concept of individual military and security weapons.

Ingram's highly sophisticated weapons are designed with the following ideas in mind — safety, ease of operation, production economy, and performance. His tiny Ingram M11 is a submachine weapon just about equal in ballistic performance to the normal 9mm round fired in weapons three times its size and weight, e.g., the Sten. Obviously, this weapon should gain some serious attention.

The application for silenced Ingram weapons is clandestine operations in urban environments — presumably domestic and foreign! In any event, they are of optimum value in any warfare situation where ease of concealment, effective firepower, and silenced operation are of primary importance. The larger M10 Model has been combat tested in Southeast Asia, where in one case, one was used to eliminate the advance part of an enemy patrol without alerting the main body of trooops only 75 yards away. That is silent operation for a small, hand-held weapon firing at full automatic! In all honesty, though, some competent critics say that the Ingram's cyclic rate is far too high to be a universally effective combat weapon. In tests, it has fired as high as over 1100 rounds a minute. Of course, if you want to scatter a lot of lead in a short amount of time in a confined area, that is a positive factor. When I fired the Ingram, it sounded as fast as a runaway sewing machine. However, after a

couple of familiarization bursts, I was able to control the weapon quite well in the target area. Obviously, when a silencer is applied, it aids greatly in control and accuracy of this super-rapid firing weapon.

The Ingram Model 11 was tested, among other places, for a group of VIPs at Fort Benning, ala "The Selling of the Pentagon." One man reported the Ingram made only a slight kick and the only sound from the gun was a mechanical click, followed by the zing of the bullets. On full automatic, the Ingram quietly clicked out 30 rounds in just about two seconds, he later told me.

An imported submachine which has been given only passing notice by our country is the Israeli Uzi. Secret Service people guarding our President and Vice-President have these tiny weapons in special attache cases and carry them inconspicuously while with the two officials. Look for the little black attache cases next time you see the President and his Secret Service people on television. However, the general military has been slow to see the advantages of the dependable, lightweight Uzi type submachine gun.

In addition, there are some excellent weapons' systems imported from Europe. The best designed, and most efficient, well-made of these weapons may be within the system manufactured by Germany's Heckler and Koch GMBH. This company produces West Germany's standard infantry rifle, plus an entire system of military and security weapons. Their designs are about 15 years ahead of U.S. military issue.

Or, as one ordnance official told me, "Stuff we have on the design tables for adoption in 1982 is now the standard issue in Germany . . . that Heckler and Koch system is fantastic."

In addition to the military, the Heckler and Koch system has possibilities for domestic security use. Their HR 33 is an excellent automatic rifle, while their MP5 series is as fine a submachine gun as I've handled. The major advantage is that in the automatic mode, these weapons are fired in three round bursts, i.e., for each time the trigger is pressed, only a three-round burst is fired. This will make sense to any arms instructor who has watched a soldier burn up a magazine of ammo on full auto, punching holes in the clouds with all but the first few rounds.

Another innovation from Heckler and Koch is their VP 70 machine pistol, which converts from a smart autoloading pistol to a tiny submachine gun with the attachment of the holster shoulder stock. The weapon then fires in bursts of three rounds like the other H and K automatic weapons — which makes their general accuracy far superior to most other weapons of this type. The company also has a silencer for its weapons so they may be used in special missions and in domestic law enforcement.

Naturally, the "other side" in our dichotomous world also uses silenced weapons. Briefly, the more widely known of their current weapons include the Soviet's silenced AK-47, SKS carbine, and a top-secret, newly developed sniper rifle that has been only hinted at in international ordnance circles. Reportedly, one western intelligence group has offered a standing $25,000 reward to the first person to bring one of these super weapons across the Iron Curtain.

The Czechs have their silenced automatic weapon, the Model 61, which

is a cross between a submachine gun and a pistol. It was used in Prague during the rebellion there in 1968.

In Asia, the Communist bloc groups use a variety of captured and copied weapons. Some of the silenced ones include the ChiCom Model 37 submachine gun, the Model 64 assassination pistol, and converted captured weapons, e.g., MAT-49, M16A1, Sten MKIIS, etc.

However, today's silencers are still rather standard designs. Despite extensive invention, design, and test, the basic function of a silencer has not changed since Hiram P. Maxim hooked his first successful tube on the end of a rifle seven decades ago. His method is basically still the most successful. One new suggestion was offered by John Minnery, who notes that a silencer might be designed which would disguise sound rather than muffle it. This was the basic idea behind the Jarrett silencer which was patented in 1959. That silencer was designed to alter the muzzle blast sounds to a level which would be beyond human hearing. However, there are too many physical factors involved in that idea, e.g., terrain, weather, people, etc.

"Even if the sound is still heard," Minnery continues, "Perhaps, it could be made to sound like a door slamming, a tire squeal, a truck's roar, or some other common sound that most people would probably ignore."

Of course, Minnery also sees the need for the traditional silencer in military assignments where total silence is a necessary function of the weapon.

There are no conclusions to this book, merely observations. When Hiram P. Maxim's inventive genius brought the silencer to the world in 1908, the man had only humanitarian benefits in mind, i.e., a weapon against noise pollution. It took another type of mind to see the silencer's benefits as a weapon against people pollution. Today, the firearms silencer is merely another tool in the dirty warfare workshop. Perhaps people are getting cynical about nasty death and dirty warfare. Afterall, didn't Mass America want to pin a medal on Lt. Rusty Calley for his role as the Army's Fall-Guy patsy in the Mai Lai mess?

Or, as newspaper publisher Bill Jackson wrote in his review of my last book on clandestine warfare:

> Truby's book is either disturbing or heartening in its content depending on how far you lean to the Left or Right. It is nice to learn we aren't being left at the post by Cold War competitors, but the book also reveals a "Big Brother" overtone as well.

That overtone is growing stronger and more silent! Maybe that's a good place to sign off until next time.

Silently yours!

JDT

INDEX

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, 21
ABRAMS, CREIGHTON, 53
AIR AMERICA, 54
AK47 SUBMACHINE GUN, 73, 75
ARNETT, PETER, 55
ATCHISSON, MAXWELL F., 73
ATCHISSON .22 CONVERSION UNIT, 73
ATWOOD, JAMES, 25
AYERS, BRADLEY, 27
BATTLE OF THE BULGE, 25
BAY OF PIGS, 27
BAYARD, ROBERT, 69
BELGIAN FN RIFLE, 27
BELL LABS SILENCERS, 25
BERETTA 3.80 PISTOL, 18, 63
BLACK PANTHERS, 65
BOURNE, ROLAND, 23
BROWN, ROBERT, 27
BUNDY, McGEORGE, 32
CALLEY, WILLIAM, 75
CASTRO, FIDEL, 27
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, 9, 10, 23, 27, 28, 29, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ASSASSINATION PISTOL, 51, 58
CHICOM MODEL 37, 75
CHICOM MODEL 64, 78
CHRYSLER CORPORATION SILENCER, 21
CHURCHILL GAUNTLET, 26
CLARK, MARK, 22
COLT WOODSMAN, 23
COLUMBO, JOE, 60
CONEIN, LUCIEN, 29
COURTNEY, C.B., 22
CROSBY, P.L., 58
CZECH MODEL 27 PISTOL, 25
CZECH MODEL 61 WEAPON, 75
DeLISLE CARBINE, 26
DIEM, NGO BIHN, 51
DIEPPE RAID, 22, 25
DEMING, ANGUS, 58
DILLINGER, JOHN, 19

DONG TAM SNIPER SCHOOL, 52
DONOVAN, WILLIAM, 21, 23
DOUGLAS MacARTHUR BRIGADE, 57
EISENHOWER, DWIGHT D., 25, 29
ELFORD, ROBERT, 26
ELMAN, ROBERT, 19
ENFIELD ARMS WORKS, 22
ENFIELD RIFLE, 58
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, 19, 69
FIGUERES, JOSE, 22
FOOTE, J. P., 22
FOOTE, JOHN P., 73
FORT BENNING, 21, 74
FRANKFORD ARSENAL, 21
FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION, 26
FRENCH RESISTANCE, 25
FRIENDENTHAL SPY SCHOOL, 26
GALLO, ALBERT, 60
GALL, JOE, 60
GALLO-COLUMBO WAR, 60
GALLO-PROFACI WAR, 60
GEHLEN BUREAU, 28
GESTAPO, 24
GESTAPO ASSASSINATION WEAPON, 25
GEYER, 28
GOERING, HERMANN, 26
GRANT, WILLIAM, 57
GOLD SPOT SILENCER, 42
GRAY, RONALD, 26
GRU, 9
GUN CONTROL ACT OF 1968, 11
HAGANAH, 21
HAMBLEN, CAPT. 22
HAND FIRING DEVICE, MK I (WELROD), 24
HATCHER, JULIAN, 16
HECKLER & KOCH, GMBH, 74
HECKLER & KOCH WEAPONS, 74
HIGH STANDARD HD PISTOL, 23, 24, 26, 27, 51, 63, 65
HIGH STANDARD COMPANY, 21
HO CHI MINH, 29
HOLMES, COLONEL, 22
HOLT, E.S., 51
HOPKINS & ALLEN, 18
HORNADAY, W. T., 16

HUBNER, SIEGFRIED, 14, 17
INCHON, 26
INGRAM, GORDON, 72, 73
INGRAM SUBMACHINE GUNS, 64, 72, 73, 74
IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY, 57, 58
JACKSON, WILLIAM, 75
JARRETT SILENCER, 75
JOHNSON, LYNDON B., 53
KEEGAN, JOSEPH, 17
KENNEDY, JOHN F., 27
KOLLER, LARRY, 19
KRULAK, VICTOR H., 54
LANSDALE EDWARD, 29
LeFEBVRE SILENCERS, 63
LEMNITZER, LYMAN, 22
LINDSTROM, PAUL, 36, 57
LIVINGSTONE, R.P., 22
LONG RANGE RECON PATROLS, 51
LOVELL, STANLEY, 23
LUCIANO, LUCKY 60
LUGER PO8 PISTOL, 17
MAI LAI, 75
MARASCO, ROBERT, 52
MAT 49 SUBMACHINE GUN, 26, 75
MAU MAU, 26
MAUSER 98 RIFLE, 17, 26
MAXIM, HIRAM H., 15, 16, 18, 22, 23
MAXIM, HIRAM P., 15-19, 46, 54, 75, 77
MAXIM, SIR HIRAM S., 15
MAXIM MODEL SILENCERS, 15-19, 23, 26, 62, 67
MAXIM SILENCER COMPANY, 17, 22
McCONNELL, WARREN, 62, 67
MILES, ROBERT, 68
MILITARY ARMAMENT CORPORATION, 56, 64, 69, 72, 73
MILITARY ARMAMENT CORPORATION SILENCER, 56, 69, 70
MG 42 MACHINE GUN, 53
MINNERY, JOHN, 26, 55
MORGAN, WILLIAM J., 24
MORRIS, BRADLEY, 65
MUSSOLINI, BENITO, 25
M1 CARBINE, 21, 22
M1 GARAND, 26
M3 SUBMACHINE GUN, 21, 26
M3A1 SUBMACHINE GUN, 21, 51, 65

M14 RIFLE, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55
M16 and M16A1 RIFLE, 51, 54, 55, 65, 73, 75
M1911A1 PISTOL, 19, 24
NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT OF 1934, 11, 18
NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION, 69
NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORY, 55
NAVY SEAL TEAMS, 54, 55
NELSON, BABY FACE, 19
NELSON, THOMAS B., 73
NINTH U.S. MARINE DIVISION, 55
NIXON, RICHARD, 56
NORTH AMERICAN ARMS COMPANY, 68, 69
NUMRICH, GEORGE R., JR., 18
OPERATION HARDNOSE, 54
ORDNANCE MAGAZINE, 14
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES, 22-26, 72
PARKER-HALE SILENCERS, 58, 64
PERSHING, JOHN, 16
PHOENIX PROGRAM, 10, 53, 58
POLLARD, HUGH, 26
POWERS, GARY, 27
PUZO, MARIO, 64
REEVES, HARRY, 24
REMINGTON MODEL 12-C RIFLE, 18
REMINGTON MODEL 700 RIFLE, 51, 69, 70
RIESEL, VICTOR, 60
ROARK, JAMES, 57
ROSSEVELT, FRANKLIN D., 24
ROOSEVELT, THEODORE, 16
RUGER 10/22 CARBINE, 29, 51, 69
RIGER .22 PISTOL, 63
SACADA, ROLANDO CUBELAS, 27
SAIGON MILITARY MISSION, 29
SAVAGE 3B RIFLE, 58
SAVAGE .32/20 SPECIAL MISSION RIFLE, 23
SCHMEISSER MP 40 SUBMACHINE GUN, 26
SCROGGIE, ROBERT, 61, 62, 66
SCROGGIE SILENCER TEST DEVICE, 66
SECURITY ARMS COMPANY (SACO), 24, 68, 69, 70
SHARPE, U.S. GRANT, 54
SIONICS, INC., 72
SIONICS SILENCERS, 29, 51, 55
SKORZENY, OTTO, 25
SKS CARBINE, 98A, 74

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 39 PISTOL, 55
SMITH & WESSON MODEL 76 SUBMACHINE GUN, 55, 63
SPANISH STAR PISTOL, 62
SPANISH UNIQUE PISTOL, 63
SPRINGFIELD 1903 RIFLE, 16, 17, 26, 64
SPUD SILENCER, 59
STANCIL, GARNETT, JR., 18
STARLITE SCOPE, 52, 57
STEN MKIIS SUBMACHINE GUN, 21, 22, 26, 56, 58, 74, 75
STERLING SUBMACHINE GUN, 26, 56
STONER, EUGENE, 16
STREICHER, HELMUT, 25, 28
SWEDISH M45 "K" SUBMACHINE GUN, 56
TALESE, GAY, 64
THIRD MARINE DIVISION, 55
"34A" OPERATIONS, 54
THOMAS, DONALD G., 63
THOMPSON SUBMACHINE GUN, 19, 21
TUDHOPE, BILL, 59
ULSTER DEFENSE LEAGUE, 57
UNIQUE SILENCER, 58
U.S. ARMY MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING UNIT,
U.S. ARMY NINTH DIVISION, 56, 57
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE, 63
U.S. SECRET SERVICE, 74
UZI SUBMACHINE GUN, 51, 53
VIET CONG, 26, 30, 31
VIETMINH, 26
VILLA, PANCHO, 16
VON HELLDORF, COUNTY, 25
WALTHER PP PISTOL, 46
WEBSTER, JOHN, 57
WEIR, "COLONEL", 64
WERBELL, MITCHELL, 55, 72, 73
WHITMAN, CHARLES, 68
WINCHESTER LOW WALL RIFLE, 18
WINCHESTER MODEL 70 RIFLE, 35
WINCHESTER MODEL 94 CARBINE, 15
WINCHESTER .401 RIFLE, 19
WOOD, JOHN S., JR., 24, 48
WRIGHT, CAPTAIN, 22
XENON LIGHTING, 56
X-PLORACO, LTD., 63